



ISSUE 34

WINTER 1993

DARK EMPIRE REVIEW/ANALYSIS (Dark Horse Comics)

Mary Jo Fox

In 1990, I heard about a new post-ROTJ comic book series "soon-to-be-published" by Marvel. For nearly two years I searched for this new series, but to no avail. At last my prayers were answered when Dark Horse's *Dark Empire* #1 hit the stands in late 1991. Throughout 1992, I anxiously awaited each issue, wondering just what was going to happen to our heroes next.

The artwork in this series is incredible. The brilliant cover art by Dave Dorman is always the first thing that captures the reader. The man will win an award for those covers, if there is any justice in this universe!

On the inside, we have Cam Kennedy's art to admire. He is a true master at drawing the complex machinery of the SW universe. It's amazing that much of the hardware (the World Devastators, the Emperor's flagship, etc.) came not from the movies but from Kennedy's own imagination. The battle scenes are all spectacularly done with incredible detail. I shudder to think how much it would cost to reproduce some of those scenes for the big screen.

The use of watercolors gives the whole series a strange, foreboding atmosphere, especially the scenes

on Byss. Some people may not like that some characters don't look too much like their cinematic counterparts, but I was willing to overlook that. Kennedy does a great job with the droids and the Emperor.

For the most part, Tom Veitch's script is incredible. This story, like the films, deals with a metaphysical battle that is reflected through space battles. The question Luke Skywalker tries to answer over the course of the series is, "Can you defeat darkness through darkness?" He learns all about the Dark Side from the reborn Emperor, who in turn seeks to turn the young Jedi Master or destroy him, whichever happens first. This scenario is shocking, to say the least. Veitch keeps us guessing where Luke's loyalties lie -- one minute he's helping his friends escape, the next minute, he's using Dark Side powers (ironically, to help his friends).

The various subplots involving the battle at Calamari and the rescue attempts are engrossing, without taking away from the heart of the struggle. The supplementary information in the back is fascinating, especially the passages about the ancient Jedi. Veitch has created wonderful new worlds, from creepy

Byss to garish *Blade Runner*-esque Nal Hutta. He has also created some great characters, my favorite being the enigmatic Vima Da Boda. She had better be back in the next series! Some folks may not like that the Emperor and Boba Fett have been brought back from the grave. But I never thought a guy as tough as Boba could die so easily and the way the Emperor is brought back is kind of clever.

Luke, Han and Leia remain the same gang we know and love, but they show some growth as well. Now that they're thirty- or forty-somethings, and in some cases, parents, we *should* expect some changes. Han seems to have accepted the responsibilities of being an Alliance general, a husband, and a father. But, he's still a wiseguy who has trouble accepting the Force. As everyone keeps telling him, "You just don't understand." At the end, he expresses some pride in being the father of Jedi. That heart of gold keeps getting shinier, too. For instance, when he and Chewie are escaping from a detention cell, he actually says, "To heck with the *Falcon*! We aren't leaving 'til we find Leia!" Han sacrificing his ship for his woman?! He *has* come a long way!

If there's one thing that's abundantly clear, it's that Leia is definitely the smartest and most fearless SW character. Right away, she sees that Luke's plan is a lousy idea. She outsmarts the Emperor and recaptures the holocron. She charges from adventure to adventure, never minding the fact that she's pregnant. Her Highnessness has changed in some ways, too. She has completely accepted her Jedi heritage. She seems proud that her children are part of that tradition as well. As a result, she demonstrates far more confidence in her Force abilities than she shows in Zahn's books. (Oh, she starts to wear black in Issue 6, too!)

Luke, however, is at his most intriguing in this story. We see just how far he has come since ANH when he coolly blows up at AT-AT with a mere gesture. He seems so much older now and ever so alone. Luke says he decided to learn about the Dark Side to see why Anakin fell. But, perhaps he thinks he can single-handedly defeat the Dark Side, since he had successfully faced it alone before. He's still reckless, touched with hubris that nearly causes him to fall into darkness. Luke's demeanor changes from moment to moment -- on one page, he seems to be under the Emperor's control, on the next page, he seems to be still loyal to the Rebellion. Up until the end, we don't know which path he'll choose. It's a Luke we haven't

seen before, but it's a refreshing aspect of this story. Somehow, it makes his struggle more believable now that we have seen such vulnerability, even though he is a Jedi Master.

There are various mythological/mystical themes in the story as well. The most obvious is the continuing conflict between Good and Evil. But the most interesting point Veitch makes is that the Jedi were powerful because they could pool their Force powers. The solitary Dark Side users are no match for a unified community of Jedi. Luke learns to think of himself as part of a group, not as a lone warrior who has to save the galaxy all by himself. Did, then, the Jedi of the Old Republic fall because they lost that sense of community? It's an intriguing idea.

Another interesting development is the Emperor wanting to take Leia's third child (three is a magical number!) as his new body. Oddly enough, this reminds me of Anne Rice's *The Witching Hour*. In that novel, an evil entity invades the heroine's fetus so that he would be born human. It's sort of a perversion of the Christ figure. The Emperor, an evil entity housed in a cloned body, wishes to be "reborn" into a body that will make him human again. Not only will he be invincible in a powerful Jedi's body, but it is implied that he hopes to be part of a Dark Family that includes Luke as a subservient "son" and Leia as a surrogate mother. He is a lonely being trapped in a chaotic world of anger, hatred and fear without companionship since Vader's death. Also, if "positive" Force is stronger if it is shared, then the converse must be true. However, the Emperor is doomed to fail. He is quick to anger, and he craves power and control for only himself. In the end, he is destroyed by his own hatred (at least for now).

Veitch's story has a few flaws, particularly in #6. The battles are resolved just fine, but there are two scenes in particular that could have been better. I think the scene where Leia leaves to go face the Emperor is too short and unemotional. Compare that with the carbon freezing chamber scene in TESB or the scene in ROTJ where Luke leaves Leia to face Vader. Those were real heart-tuggers. Veitch didn't have to make a five-page sappy affair out of that situation, but he had a chance to make us shed some tears and he blew it! The very last scene is a bit of a letdown, as well. It's basically a "Jedis Only" ending. All three movies ended with the cast standing together to symbolize the solidarity of the Family. An all-cast ending here would've renewed that Family bond. It

would've shown Luke is part of the fold again. But we are short-changed with an ending scene that is not as emotionally satisfying as it could have been.

Overall, *Dark Empire* is true to the spirit of the SW films. It is an impressive series that everyone who considers himself or herself a fan should be required to read. The good news is that Dark Horse promises more SW goodies in 1993, including a *Dark Empire* sequel. Can't wait!

Best Issue: #3 -- the most spine-tingling.

Best Cover: #2 -- I'm not a Luke Luster, but, boy, did he look good on that cover. #3 and #6 are my honorable mentions.

Best Line: From #3: Han says to Leia, "If he's [Luke] such a great Jedi, how come I have to keep rescuing him?"

Coolest Technological Wonder: The World Devastators. Big, scary, and ecologically efficient!

Most Shocking Revelation: You don't have to wait for Zahn's third book to get the names of Leia's twins (Jacen and Jaina).

LETTER INDEX

Barbara Anderson	20
Tina Bentrup	52
Tim Blaes	50
Barbara Brayton	36
Catriona Campbell	32
Gerald Crotty	47
Fiorenzo Delle Rupi	36
Anne-Virginie Dutech	58
Z. P. Florian	30
Mary Jo Fox	45
Yvette Ghilan	42
Debbie Kittle	56
Wanda Lybarger	14
Michelle Malkin	54

Maggie Nowakowska	59
Tammy Olsen	31
Marti Schuller	15
A. G. Steyn	24
Ming Wathne	40
Matthew Whitney	43
Leanne Wingo	18
Judith Yuenger	34

ART INDEX

Catherine Churko	68
Gerald Crotty	23, 41
Z. P. Florian	17, 58
Judith Low	Mastheads
[From Fiorenzo Delle Rupi]	39

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Deadline for #35 -- March 1, 1993 (which is, incidentally, my 40th birthday!)

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Submissions received later than seven (7) days after deadline will not be published in the current issue.

AN EDITORIAL RESPONSE

Cheree Cargill

I want to thank everyone who commented on the editing controversy. I appreciate your ideas and feelings. I have thought about it all a great deal and herewith is my response:

I have been editing fanzines for twenty years, since 1972. In that time, I have published nearly 50 zines -- five issues of *Tal-Shaya* (a Star Trek zine), six issues of *A Tremor in the Force* (with a seventh and eighth in the works), two issues of *Field Studies* (with a third upcoming), two issues of *Choice Parts*, and thirty-four issues of *Southern Enclave*. In addition, I was co-editor for approximately six issues of *A Piece of the Action* (a Star Trek newsletter), and had a regular column for around four years. *A Tremor in the Force* issues #1-4 were nominated for Fan Q's for Best SW Zine. *A Tremor in the Force* #5 won the 1990 Star Award for Best SW Zine. *Southern Enclave* has won 4 Fan Q's and two Star Awards as best SW letterzine. In my "mundane" life, I hold a Bachelor of Arts with a second major in English literature. I have worked professionally as a legal transcriptionist and word processing specialist since 1979, and I read obsessively for study and pleasure. I have never claimed that this makes me a professional editor, but I think this gives me a pretty good background for being an amateur one.

During the span of those twenty years, I have had the pleasure of working with some of the best known writers in SW fandom (some who have gone on to write professionally), some writers who flared briefly and then followed other interests, and others who contributed occasionally with modest but heart-felt works. And, during all that time, I found myself on the receiving end of only a handful of minor complaints.

However, for the past six months, I have been bewildered and angry at having to defend myself when I thought my reputation in fandom spoke for itself. And, frankly, I have been hurt and deeply offended that my personal integrity has apparently been called into question.

A. G. Steyn, in her remarks to me in this issue's LoC, says that I refused to carry on the discussion "under the table" but insisted that I would only do so in SE. I'm afraid that she must have misconstrued what I said to her. She had insisted that I reprint unedited versions of her stories in TF#7 or in SE. This was something that I refused to do, but I offered her SE's public forum to make any sort of public statement she wished, giving her *carte blanche* to blast me to kingdom come if she chose and I promised that I would not edit, censor or rebut a single word in that issue.

I have done a great deal of thinking during the past several months and discussed the situation privately with several other zine editors -- including an editor in an unrelated fandom -- to see what their thoughts were, as editors. And, it was with this in mind that I asked last issue for your opinions on editing stories and the duty owed by an editor to an author and vice versa. The responses received this issue have been thought-provoking and sobering, to say the least.

The problem seems to have two prongs. First, there was obviously a misunderstanding on A. G.'s part. The fact that her story would be edited and not printed verbatim was apparently a surprise to her. With the help of Z. P. Florian's European point of view, I now understand that such is not the usual case with European fanzines. I still feel that A. G. overreacted in her initial letter to me concerning this, but I also overreacted in my response to her and regret that my reply was not a more temperate one, and thus aggravated a volatile situation.

Second, however, is the larger question of the actual editing process. I have always tried to edit with a light hand and leave any rewrites to the author. However, I feel that it falls within the purview of an editor to make such changes as grammar, punctuation, slight sentence restructuring and perhaps even an occasional word change, if the editor feels it improves the flow and readability

of the story. I believe that this is the editor's job; she is ultimately responsible for the quality of material that is offered to her readers. Otherwise, she is nothing more than a typist. However, it has never been my intention to rewrite any author's work. I try to read each story with an objective eye, as a first-time reader would see it, and mark any editorial changes I think are warranted. If those changes amount to anything more than what I call "polishing" (as outlined above), it goes back to the author for a rewrite. I have never thought it necessary to negotiate endlessly over this, but, by your letters in this issue, you have all made it clear that *you* do. I will admit to being surprised by the vehemence on this issue and will take more care in the future.

In the case of the story vignettes by A. G. that I printed in *A Tremor in the Force* #6, I just flat out failed to follow through properly on them. The deadline for getting the zine to the printer was coming up fast and I had a lot of things on my mind. Thus, I neglected to send the edited versions back to her for approval. With 20-20 hindsight, I realize that I should have done so or held the vignettes out of that issue until everything could be worked out. But I didn't because I was rushed and doing final layout on the zine (along with my usual dozen or so other activities, like working full time and maintaining a home and family, as well as getting out an issue of SE and handling a heavy load of correspondence), and it simply didn't cross my mind.

Therefore, I hereby formally and publicly apologize to A. G. Steyn for the misunderstanding and miscommunications we have experienced over this matter. And I formally and publicly apologize to everyone who has ever submitted material for any of my zines if I have offended you in any way with my editing practices.

Your comments in this issue of SE have made me more conscious of your feelings and I will henceforth try to work more closely with all my contributors as well as mailing "galley proofs" of all final printouts back to the authors for proofing and changes. I hope this will alleviate any more hurt feelings in this matter.

However, if I have not made myself clear over the years I have been doing zines, let me put it in unequivocal terms:

Every piece of written material that is submitted to Falcon Press for publication is subject to being edited!

Now, this doesn't mean that I'm sitting here with a blue pencil and a maniacal leer on my face, waiting to slash and burn your creation into tiny pieces. You need only talk with people whose work I have published many times to know that I don't do that. However, when you send a manuscript to me for possible publication in one of my zines, I *will* exercise my experience and read it with a critical eye. I have seen very few manuscripts in those twenty years that were letter perfect both in content and form. It's my job as editor to catch the inconsistencies, to point out the holes in the plot, and to help you, as a writer, make your story as emotionally satisfying for the reader as I can. I feel very strongly that I am ultimately responsible for whatever material I choose for publication in Falcon Press zines and it has always been my credo that any zine that goes out under my name will be the very best zine I can produce.

Fiorenzo Delle Rupi, in his LoC this issue, expresses his belief that an editor should just print what he is sent and let the readers decide whether it is good or bad. I disagree. The readers are laying out cold, hard cash for the zine and I believe they deserve the best product I can give them, particularly with the high price of zines these days. I feel it would be dishonest of me to do otherwise.

So, once again, I apologize to anyone I may have offended with my editorial practices, but I stand by them. If you have a problem with your work being edited or if you feel that whatever you have written was brought down from on high, carved with fire in tables of stone, then don't send it to me. We are not likely to have a happy relationship. In such a case, you are free to submit it elsewhere or, alternatively, to do your own zine and publish whatever you want any old way you want. The more zines, the merrier!

I'm sorry this editorial sounds so belligerent but this matter has struck close to the heart. And the bottom line is this -- I will stop doing zines altogether before I will lower the quality of Falcon Press publications. And you can carve *that* in stone.

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ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY...

Southern Enclave #2, December 1983; 42 pp.

LoCers: Kathy Agel, Terri Black, Tim Blaes, Marcia Brin, Danaline Bryant, Bev Clark, Melody Corbett, Linda DeLaurentis, Debbie Gilbert, Kathy Godfrey, Jeanine Hennig, Christine Jeffords, Bev Loreinstein, Michelle Malkin, Susan Matthews, Pat Molitar, Karen Osman, Carole Regine, Sally Syrjala, Barbara Tennison, Leticia Wells, and Ann Wortham.

Art by: Danaline Bryant and Cheree Cargill.

Article: "The Other Chemistry" by Melody Corbett. Concerned allegory and symbolism in the SW Saga. Referenced Joseph Campbell's *Hero With a Thousand Faces* as well as other books on mythology.

Also Featured: Word Search Puzzle by Lynda Vandiver.

LoC Topics Included: SW merchandise such as the Pepperidge Farm cookies and the Buena Vista juvenile records; comments on ROTJ, both pro and con; Luke and Leia as siblings; Han and Leia's future; and "canon".

Zines Advertised: "Currently in Port" -- *Combining Forces #3*, *Conflicting Impulses #1*, *Details at 11* (Simon & Simon), *Encore!* (Mel Gibson), *Fans of Ford Newsletter*, *Far Realms 4-5*, *Field Studies #1*, *Harrison Ford Fun Book*, *Masiform D #13* (ST), *Outland Chronicles #1*, *Scoundrel*, *Shooting Star* (Mark Hamill), *Tales for the Telling* (Raiders), and *We Are Star Met* (ST). "Coming Soon" -- *Archaeology 101 #3* (Raiders), *A Tremor in the Force #1*, *Collected Circle of Fire*, *Conflicting Impulses #2*, *Contraband #2*, *Deceptive Journey*, *Legends of Light #2*, *Outland Chronicles #2*, *Skywalker #5*, and *VHF--the Lyrics*. "Other Worlds" offered Martie Benedict's VHF tapes, costumes made by Chris Jefford's mother, several zine sales, soft fannish dolls (unicorns, sehlats, etc.), solicitations for donations towards stars on the Walk of Fame for Harrison Ford and Leonard Nimoy, and Harrison Ford stationery.

CREW ROSTER

Mary Jo Fox

Age: 23.

Occupation: Law Student.

Favorite song of all time: "Love Will Tear Us Apart".

Favorite album(s) of all time: *The Queen is Dead* -- The Smiths, *Treasure* -- Cocteau Twins.

Weirdest rumor that has been spread about me: I was a devil worshipper (not true, of course!).

Favorite color: black, black, and more black (even lipstick and nailpolish!).

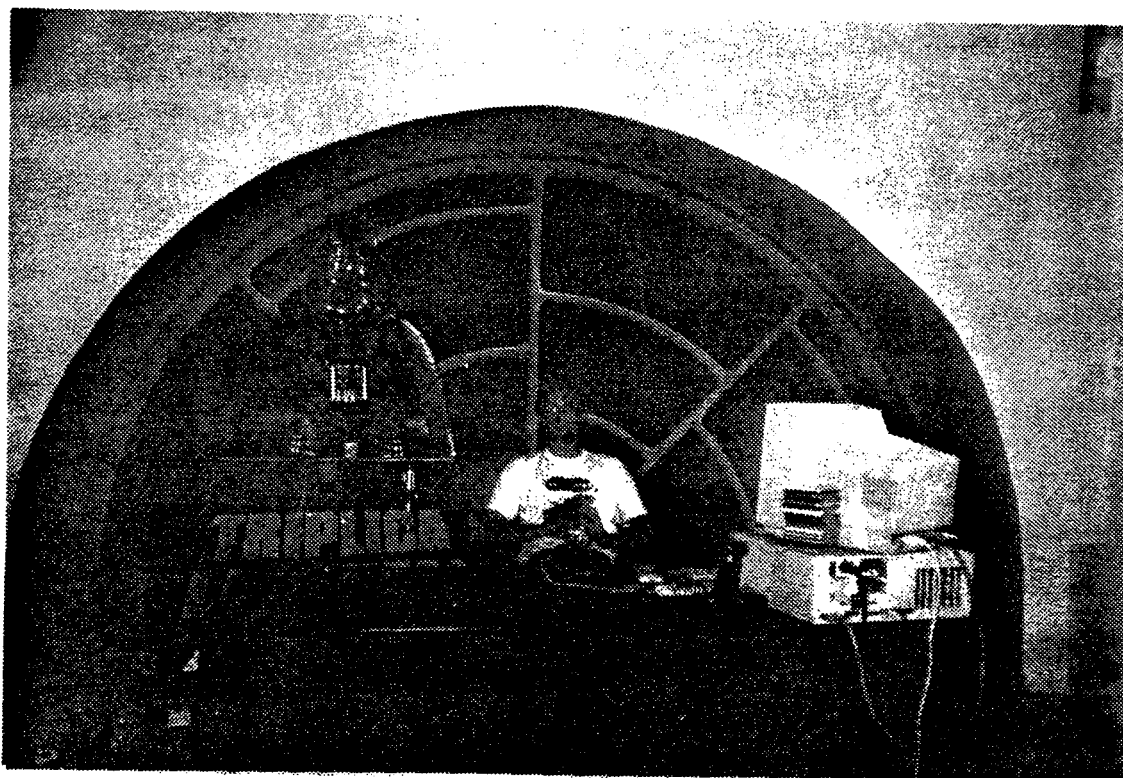
How did I ever become a SW fan: When I was a wee lass of 7, almost 8, my parents got me out of school just to go see ANH (a "doctor's appointment"). I was hooked the second it splashed across the screen (and have been since!).

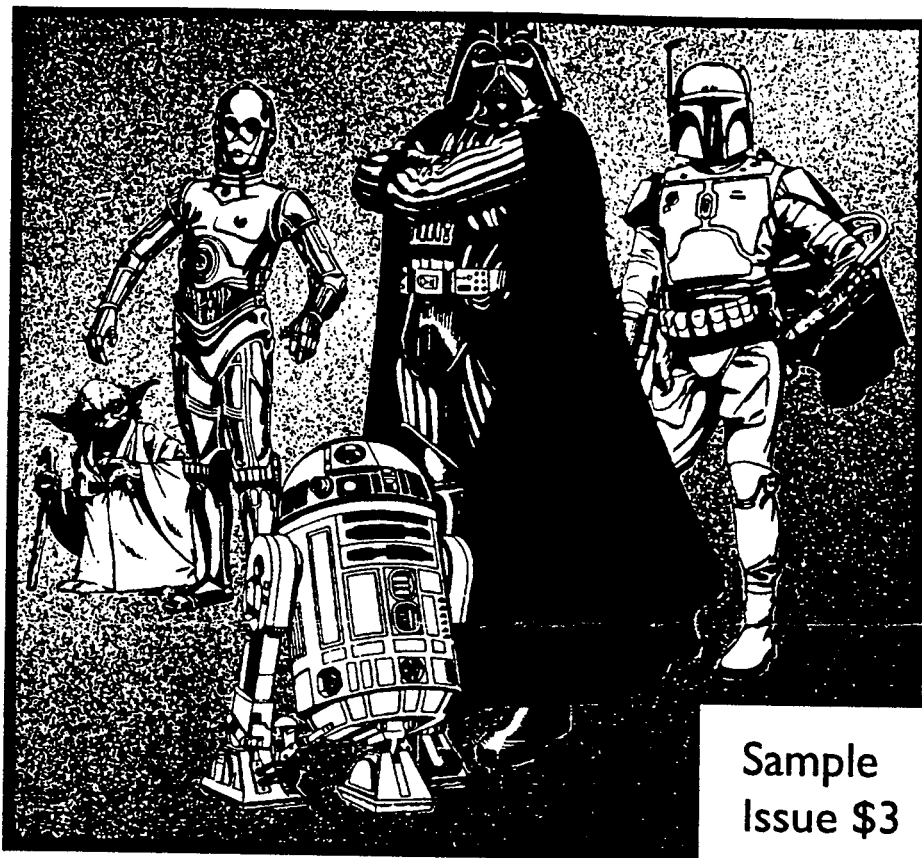
Thanks to Debbie Kittle, Maggie Nowakowska, Tim Blaes and everyone else who sent clippings. I wish we could print them all!



Judy Yuenger and pals

Fiorenzo Delle Rupi & friend





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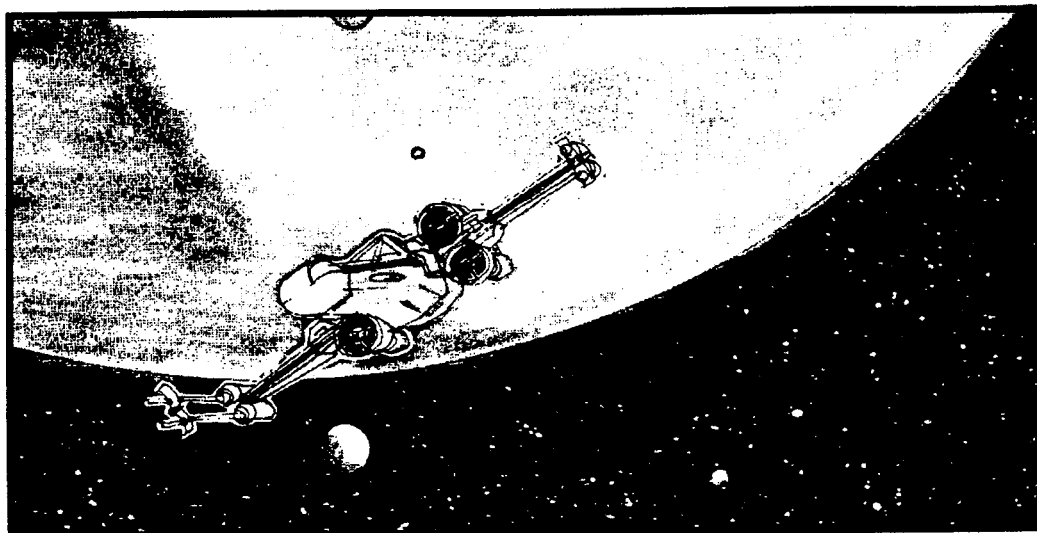
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IMPERIUM III



Wanted:

Your original Star Wars stories, vignettes, articles, poetry, filks, artwork etc. for Imperium III, due out for MediaWest*Con 13. Deadline for submissions is 1 April 1993.

Contributors so far include Pat Grant (a.k.a. Ye Editor), L. Hyde, ZP Florian, James Casselbury, Kirk Taskila and Diane Duane.

We would be honored if you would join us!

Submission Guidelines

If you don't have a computer: Please use a typewriter and double-space your copy.

Computers: Macintosh – please use a word-processing program (MS Word, TeachText, etc.) rather than DTP. Formatting: double-spaced, flush left, one tab at beginning of each paragraph. Send hard copy with your disk. **Other systems:** save as ascii (text) to a 3½" disk and send hard copy. If you can only use 5¼" disks, then send hard copy only. Don't format anything, i.e. no 'smart' quotes, italics, bold or underlining.

If you have a modem: send to CIS 70274,3160 (70274.3160@compuserve.com for internet), or AOL: ArwenR, or call (212) 877-1086 to arrange a good time to mail.

Artwork: Do not send original artwork! Send two camera ready copies — photostats would be best. Keep in mind that no matter the original size, the final version will fit on 8½" x 11" paper. Call if you have any questions.

Send submissions to:

Arwen Rosenbaum
605 West End Avenue
New York NY 10024-1608

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If you send anything larger than a regular envelope (my mailbox is smaller than a roach motel), send it to me at my office address:

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(continued on back flap)

(continued from page 107)

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TEXTUAL POACHERS

TELEVISION FANS AND PARTICIPATORY CULTURE

HENRY JENKINS

"Get a life," William Shatner told *Star Trek* fans. Yet, as *Textual Poachers* argues, fans already have a "life," a complex subculture which draws its resources from commercial culture while also reworking them to serve alternative interests. Rejecting stereotypes of fans as cultural dupes, social misfits, and mindless consumers, Jenkins represents media fans as active producers and skilled manipulators of program meanings, as nomadic poachers constructing their own culture from borrowed materials, as an alternative social community defined through its cultural preferences and consumption practices.

Written from an insider's perspective and providing vivid examples from fan artifacts, *Textual Poachers* offers an ethnographic account of the media fan community, its interpretive strategies, its social institutions and cultural practices, and its troubled relationship to the mass media and consumer capitalism. Drawing on the work of Michel de Certeau, Jenkins shows how fans of *Star Trek*, *Blake's 7*, *The Professionals*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Starsky and Hutch*, *Alien Nation*, *Twin Peaks*, and other popular programs exploit these cultural materials as the basis for their stories, songs, videos, and social interactions.

Addressing both academics and fans, Jenkins builds a powerful case for the richness of fan culture as a popular response to the mass media and as a challenge to the producers' attempts to regulate textual meanings. *Textual Poachers* guides readers through difficult questions about popular consumption, genre, gender, sexuality, and interpretation, documenting practices and processes which test and challenge basic assumptions of contemporary media theory.

Henry Jenkins is Assistant Professor of Literature at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Studies in Culture and Communication, John Fiske, Series Editor

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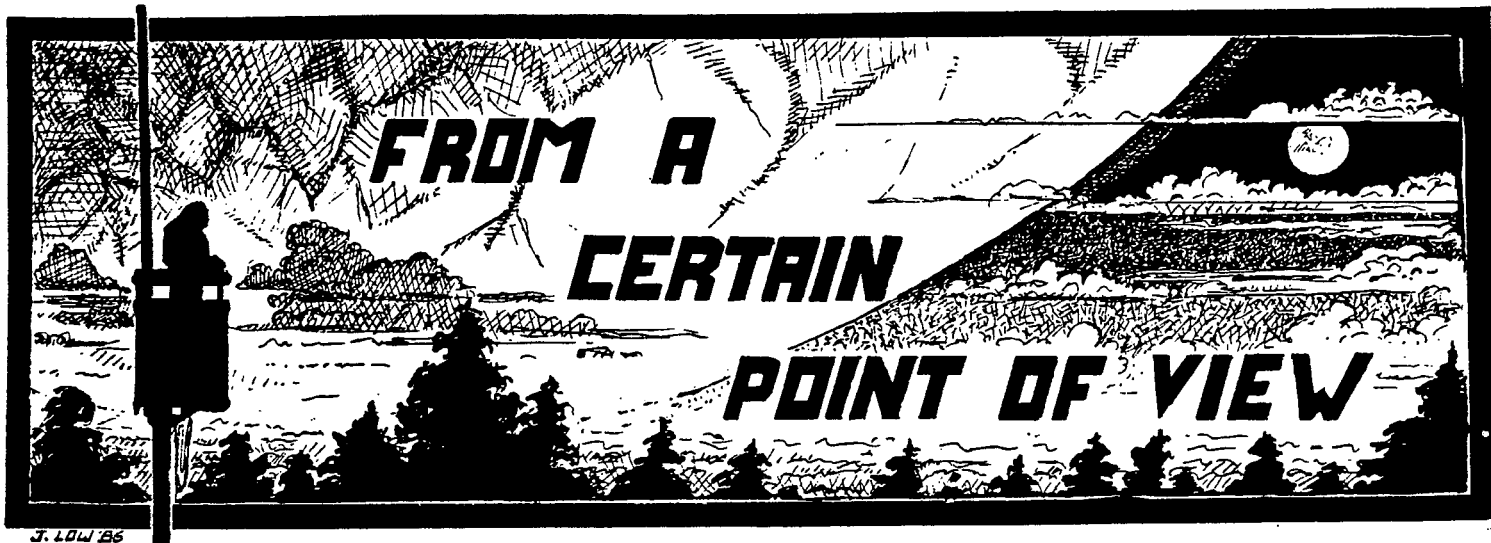
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Wanda Lybarger
3467 Ethel Avenue
Columbus, GA 31906

Hello, out there! Have been away from letterzines a long time except as an intermittent bystander. Everyone has such a lot of intriguing ideas and really got me into the possibilities; I'd probably gone on just happily reading. I'd mostly draw it than write it. But Jacqueline, with my permission, tossed out an idea I'd put to her in a letter, issue before last of SE. I see by the replies in the last issue that I ought to clarify the original thought before the arguments go too far afield (not that they aren't fascinating in their own right).

I was postulating that the Jedi teachings Luke inherited had come through two filters which distorted their original intent. I'll get to Yoda in a minute but first filter, I considered, was humanity coming late to an exposure to a much older, alien thought process and experience. Especially, Cheryl Pryor and Maggie, I'm making a distinction between the Force -- as an aspect of the natural order an "energy field created by all living things that binds the universe together" (Ben's words, my emphasis). As such, I treat it as neutral. And the Jedi, a *religion* -- the term is used by Tarkin and not contradicted by Vader -- of adepts who can manipulate the Force. Not synonyms at all. As a religion, the Jedi are subject to schools, schisms, and evolution through contacts with cultures other than the present one.

Actually, my musings grew out of "East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet." In the deepest sense, Kipling was right; the tenets of Buddhism and Hinduism become profoundly different in *interpretation* as they travel west. The profound

difference of *perception* began over thousands of years of culture and thoughts proceeding from almost diametrically opposed premises. See, Maggie, there's no *assuming* your implication that one or the other philosophy or perception is "limited" or "inadequate". There's only the reality that when minds meet something fundamentally different, the thing can only be made comprehensible by equating it with a familiar context. Since the matching is never exact, a *distortion* and *synthesis* occurs.

According to Ben, the Knights have been guardians and peacekeepers for 1,000 years. Yoda's been training for 800. "The Dark Times", the coming of the Emperor, appear to have happened in Ben's lifetime. Can the weakness have been introduced during that synthesis (nothing to do with the Force itself)?

The *denial* of all anger strikes me as an unhealthy attitude; the strict opposition of Light and Dark as Good and Evil is in fact that kind of alteration that occurs to a Western mind when confronted with Oriental Dualism. That's virtually the opposite of the Eastern view which takes Light and Dark together in balance to create harmony. That's the sort of "branching path" I envisioned happening with the Jedi. It's like the kid's game of Telephone: by the time the words are whispered from ear to ear, the message at the end of the line is amusingly garbled from the one originally sent. How different if the minds beat to different pulses, move to rhythms of a cycle that doesn't even involve reproduction -- not just East and West but human and non-human. How tragic can it be when two good wills don't make a "right"? I recommend Orson Scott Card's Ender books, especially the second.

Matthew: I never said I pictured Yoda as an "evil wizard". He's a thinking, living, therefore, emotional

being (in fact, he ignores the no anger rule with a fine old tantrum the first time we see him); he's as subject to *blind* bias as anyone. He's far from "saintly". I introduced the factor of Yoda having an unconscious grudge not from conviction but because I found a toe-hold for it in the movies' timeline and because it conveniently packaged all the ideas of a "fork" in the Jedi traditions in one place so it could be a feasible story idea.

A. G. Steyn: Gee, I wasn't intending to cause pain, just toss out some plot hooks to play with. For the record, I don't hold the little green wart in sacrosanct awe, but I've a sneaking fondness for the old curmudgeon. I *like* BEM's, love to draw them and have a lifelong passion for puppetry.

And this letter, especially for a first dip back in the water, is way too long so I'll save remarks on all the marvelous spread of speculation for another LoC. Just in parting, add me to the list of classic movie buffs (including silents) -- and Ted Turner should be tie-dyed with indelible ink! Also to the Brothers Cadfael enthusiasts and mouse-wielding southpaws. Everyone stay well. Looking eagerly for next SE.

Jedi Bias

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October 16, 1992

First and foremost, I want to congratulate Cheree on the ninth anniversary of SE! That's quite an accomplishment and you should be justly proud. SE has lasted longer than most marriages these days! It was fascinating for me, as a relative latecomer, to read who and what was in the first issue and I look forward to more of these "flashbacks". A quick word of congratulations also to Tim Blaes for his loyalty to SE and SW.

Per your request for personal opinions of *Dark Force Rising*, I enjoyed it more than the first novel and for the same reasons you stated, especially the more

in-depth look at the Noghrii civilization. I did feel Luke was treated a bit too innocently, but then I'm biased where my fav Jedi is concerned.

The MWC photos were wonderful. Katy is certainly turning into a darling cutie. I want to congratulate, belatedly, the winners of the Fan Qs and thank you, Cheree, for accommodating us by supplying a Fan Q ballot for next year. I plan to photocopy and use it and encourage others to do likewise. Though the STAR aWARDs are special and greatly appreciated, the Fan Q shouldn't be neglected either. Recognition by nomination and accolades for winning are always encouraging to receive.

Now, on to the letters.

Carolyn Golledge: I've only been fortunate enough to attend MWC once, but I did attend the now defunct KC Con twice. Stars were invited and in attendance at KC Con and it definitely altered the atmosphere. MWC is much more relaxed and fun, allowing fans to meet, exchange compliments on one another's work in fandom and new ideas, and generally be free to "cut loose". I have to agree with you that "stars" would spoil MWC. Besides, one of those I met at KC Con was so obnoxious that it's forever altered my perception of the character he plays, ruining my enjoyment of the major work he appears in.

I also want to welcome you back to SE and hope we'll see your letters regularly.

Z. P. Florian: You questioned, in your reply to Cheryl Pryor, whether Vader had the "equipment" to take on a mistress or satisfy a female admirer. My feeling is that he did, but that he would have scorned casual sex, being above such physical dalliances. It does create an interesting mental picture though if you envision him with full helmet and chest panel/respirator in place, doesn't it?

The spice. My personal feeling is that this particular smuggled substance was not a drug, either mild like cigarettes or hard like cocaine. Though I'm basically a Luke fan, I have my own strong ideas on what Han would and would not have done to earn a living. Smuggling drugs is something I don't feel he would have condoned. I believe the spice was just that -- a spice. Perhaps something like curry or some other exotic ingredient in high demand, but very heavily taxed.

Maggie Nowakowska: I wish you the greatest success with your "Brief History of SW Fanzine Fandom". I'd be happy to contribute, but I don't feel

I've been involved with fandom (I got in in 1986) long enough to be of any useful service. Nevertheless, I will be interested in the final product.

Tammy Olsen: Welcome to SE and SW fandom! It's always great to see new names and hear new opinions.

I really like your idea for a story where Luke has a "Force-blind" child. Unfortunately, I'm convinced that the Emperor's attack on Luke rendered him sterile, so I won't tackle the story, but I'd love to see someone try it.

Be sure to share your adventures at the '92 Summer Olympic Games with us. I hope you had fun and have lots to tell.

Mary Jo Fox: Another big welcome to you. I think most of us felt as you did about being alone. Isn't it wonderful when you discover you aren't? As for everyone in SE having been involved with other fandoms for a long time, I can assure you not all of us fall into that category. SW was my first and will probably be my only fan interest. I thoroughly enjoy many other sci-fi and fantasy ventures, but only SW has so captured my heart as to get me involved in SE and fan fiction writing. Though I was not a child at the time of ANH's premiere, I was below 30 and a young mother. My sons grew up surrounded by SW. I feel our beloved saga touched all of us on different levels, depending on our ages, backgrounds, etc., and that's why sharing our perspectives and reactions, as well as ideas about, SW makes SE so much fun.

I have been discussing the issue of Leia's virginity prior to Solo with a friend. It seems a good question to me. Having given some thought to this issue recently, I feel the answer is no, she was not a virgin. I don't believe Leia had vast experience by any means, but I do think there had been at least one or two other men in her life. I believe Han was special, however, and definitely her last, but I'll look forward to what others think.

Hey! It really is a small world, isn't it? When did you attend Mizzou and why MU if you're from VA? Maybe we have mutual acquaintances.

I agree with you that no future SW films would be preferable to badly made, commercial interest only ones, but I don't want to believe that Father George would do that to us.

As for your reply to Maggie, I firmly believe that the electroshock Han received was entirely different from that Palpatine used on Luke. Therefore, Han could retain his, er, abilities to regenerate, shall we

say? Whereas Luke could suffer permanent sterility. NOT impotence, just sterility. In fact, I wrote a rather sappy story outlining this very plot.

Jennifer Moore: Writing can be addictive and, take it from me, writing in fandom can teach you volumes. I look at my early efforts and cringe. For me, SW writing has been like a seven year education I wouldn't have missed for the world! Best of luck and keep at it.

Catriona Campbell: You know that I agree with you about Anakin's appearance not being a letdown, but I loved your story of the Green Cross Code Man. I could just see all those startled little faces!

As for how Vader discovered Luke, I do disagree with you and everyone else, however, in that it was through investigative efforts. I prefer to believe that Palpatine had learned about Luke's existence shortly before ANH takes place, deciding to withhold the information as his ace-in-the-hole against Vader. Luke represented no immediate threat to him at that time and having secret knowledge to use against his ambitious pupil certainly feels like something Palpie would have loved.

I will agree with you -- 100% -- about Sean Connery. Though I didn't particularly care for him in his Bond days, I adore him now. He is sexy, intelligent, and a delight in every role he plays!

Debbie Kittle: Do me, and others like me who can't afford to belong to the LFL Club a favor please? Tell us what Father George has to say re SW in the LFL newsletter interview. I'd certainly appreciate it.

Thanks also for your kind comment on "Enemy" in *Another Sky... #2*. I'm glad you enjoyed it.

A. G. Steyn: Boy, have you pried the lid off Pandora's Box. I can hardly wait to see how others react to your words. Strictly from my own p.o.v., I have to agree with you about some editors who rewrite a contribution without consulting the author. Minor changes, especially in grammar, punctuation, etc., are expected and welcomed, but major alterations really grate on my nerves. I don't believe an editor *automatically* has the right to "polish" or "embellish" a story or impose their ideas on what sounds appropriate for a character on someone else's work. If a story, poem, etc., is that out of line with their tastes, they should reject it. If it needs additional work, they should make suggestions of which changes they'd like to the author and act accordingly.

I've been extremely fortunate in that few of my stories have met with unjust editing or even overt

criticism by editors. However, I've had many friends who've had their work sabotaged or distorted by editors making unannounced (and needless) changes. One I won't name even had the entire plot altered by the addition of one sentence! (Needless to say, my friend was absolutely livid over not being consulted and never sent any other work to that zine again.) It's only courtesy to me to contact a writer if such drastic measures are deemed necessary.

This is a two way street we're on. Writers and artists need editors to display their labors, but without those artists and writers, there'd be nothing for an editor to publish. I think we sometimes feel that because editors expend so much energy, time and money doing a zine, they are above reproach, but that just isn't right.

As for restrictions placed *in advance* by editors, here I disagree with you. An editor is every bit within his or her rights to decide what sort of material they will or won't accept. Just as editors/publishers shouldn't be dictators, neither should contributors be. If you disagree with a zine's policies or guidelines, don't buy or contribute to it. Do your own.

To change the subject only slightly, I'd like to make a request of *all SE readers*. Veronica Wilson and I have been trying to come up with a word to use in place of "submission" for fan writers. "Submitting" to a professional publishing house may be acceptable, but in fandom, unfortunately, some editors tend to take this word too literally. "Offering" sounds too much like a religious sacrifice and "contribution" takes it for granted the piece will be accepted. Can any of you creative people make alternate suggestions?

Sandi Jones: Welcome back to SE. I hope to see more of your letters in these pages from now on.

Well, you and I disagree on Luke's need for a mate, as you know, but I definitely agree with you that by now most of us have a fully developed version of Luke (or Han) of our own. Just because I feel "my" Luke wouldn't do one thing or another doesn't mean I can't still enjoy stories about "yours".

I also feel Lucas would do best with relative unknowns in future SW films.

Tim Blaes: Ever considered Jedi Force implications in lovemaking? Are you serious? I have regular daydreams about it! Sigh...

Virginie Dutech: Hail and well met, my friend! Welcome to the exciting world of SE. May you enjoy it as much as I do.

Whoa. Wait a minute. Your English is astonish-

ing and your story ideas are intriguing. For Force's sake, don't pay any attention to what I say! I am certain that writing in a foreign language must be an experience in masochism, but please keep trying -- oops, doing. Whatever! I do hope you reconsider your attitude toward poor Kenobi, though. We have enough Obi-Wan bashers. Give that old man a break.

I adore your idea of Han coming from a "normal, middle-class background" with a "high school teacher dad" and an "insurance clerk mom". Write it!!! Have him take Leia home to meet the folks. It could be a great comedy. Han's double life exposed -- nurturing his rascal image against his mundane upbringing. I love it.

Thank you for the kind and undeserved credit you gave me at the end of your letter, but like Treena and others, I feel it was "your destiny" to remain in SW fandom and find SE. Your active participation will certainly be welcome.

To Michelle Malkin, Cheree and all the rest of you who said you'd welcome stories concerning Luke's lovelife, thanks for the feedback. Like Treena, I'm leery of introducing a female character for fear she will automatically be labeled a "Mary Sue". I know other writers have succeeded, but they're few and far between. If I feel inclined to add a touch of romance, therefore, I limit it to Han and Leia, usually, but after reading all your responses, perhaps I'll rethink my attitude. In fact, I feel a couple of ideas stirring in the back of my brain even as I write this. Just remember, you asked for it!

This concludes my letter. I'm already getting excited about MWC '93 and the possibility of meeting as many of you as possible. Until next SE, take care of yourselves and keep the Force, always. Peace.



Leanne Wingo
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October 18, 1992

Greetings, SE readers... I'm back. I did a really stupid thing last month. I kept thinking the deadline for SE#33 was October 1st instead of September 1st, so a few days before October I sat down to write a LoC and discovered my mistake. Talk about a no-brainer. Oh, well, it certainly isn't the first time I've done something so stupid... Onto the Loc...

Guten Tag, A.G.: So tell me, did ya manage to get that life-sized inflatable Corellian past customs on your flight home? I certainly hope you're recovering from the vacation from Hell. Yes, folks, have pity on the woman, for if it could go wrong, it did go wrong... National Lampoon's on the line. Seriously, it was GREAT to meet you and I hope you can forgive me for my ... er ... rather reckless (at times) driving habits. But officer, it wasn't MY fault... Honest! I was under the influence of a crazy (German) Corellian, really!

Someone mentioned your warped sense of humor and I must say you did it to me again! Twice, I nearly fell over laughing at your letter. Ask Dan Quayle for English tips, indeed! (Don't listen to her, folks, there is no "White House Potatoe Quayle's" in town! It's a nasty rumor!) That was humorous enough, but the image of Bette Midler playing Han's mom sent me into hysterics. I think that's a trip and I can almost visualize it as some sort of crazy spoof... Han takes Leia home to meet mom ... and is Leia in for a surprise! NO WONDER he turned out that way; he had NO choice!

I know we discussed this last month, but I think it's important for me to say it here also, that I believe you made a valid point about editing. Obviously, I know nil about the production of a zine, having never been an editor, but perhaps an easy way to solve the problem is that when a story is received by an editor that if s/he deems it necessary to edit for whatever reasons, s/he write to the author with a copy of the edited version before the zine goes to press. Along with that a letter explaining why s/he felt that changes were important. That way, the author can see the changes and if s/he doesn't like them, s/he is free to respond by saying "I don't really like the new version and I'd rather you simply send the story back." Then the author can send the story elsewhere if s/he likes. Any

opinions on the matter?

Goodness, Marti! It sounds like you're working for Cheree as a recruiting office with all these wonderful people you've brought in! Welcome, Catriona (I love your name!) and Anne-Virginie, we're honored that you could join us! (Now, if we could just convince a certain Bostonian we both know...)

What happened to the Jedi of old who fell to the Dark? I have no idea, but it's a good question and I hope some people have answers. You're probably right that Vader wasn't the first, but who was the first? I'm thinking of the question that someone brought up before (forgive me, I can't remember who this person was, Maggie maybe?) that the problem with the Force started when the Jedi began to differentiate between light and dark? Perhaps it all started by some crazy experiment. Say the Jedi were getting all these ideas of the different factions of the Force (Light and Dark, that is) and someone decided to put the theories to the test and whammo! They created a mess. What they do with the mess, I have no idea, but it's a great idea to ponder.

My goodness, dear, you've been writing wonderful stories this summer! I feel so honored that I've gotten to preview most of them. Once again, "The Invitation" is my favorite. It's a beautiful story and a real tear-jerker.

Have fun at MediaWest next year! I wish I could go, but it looks like I'll be hitting WorldCon in San Francisco instead. I left my heart... Is anybody else going? I'd love to get together with fellow fans and talk SW!

Debbie: I've been meaning to talk to you about this blazing inferno business and it's been hotter than Tatooine lately. Now, I am not a cold weather fan (Bleahhh!) but these 109° temperatures are ridiculous! So take your wishes back!

sigh I envy y'all who get the Sci-Fi Channel. My cable company keeps promising it for the next year, but I'll believe it when I see it.

Re: Issue #32, by all means, please drop me a line if you make it out this way next summer. I'd love to get together and talk SW. By the way, you didn't miss much at the Wild Animal Park. I merely mentioned it 'cause it's so close to me. The Zoo is much less expensive and a lot more fun. Prettier, too.

Yeah, *Patriot Games* was quite good. Bummer that you missed Harrison filming it, though. God, what that man does for my hormones...

Z. P.: If you ask me, that whole Endor scene was very weird. I must say I definitely agree with Maggie that it should have remained a surprise about Vader being Leia's father until they shot the scene. I don't know why I never thought of it myself, but it probably would've gotten a truer reaction from Carrie. If it hadn't worked (like if she had laughed or something, thinking it was a joke), they could've simply scrapped it and started over. I have a real problem with the way that scene was written anyway. The dialogue between Luke and Leia always seemed rather bizarre. Is it just me or do others agree with me? No, it didn't seem to fit Leia's character to advise Luke to run away and hide; even Luke must think so, as he told her, "You've always been strong."

Hi, Carolyn! Well, by now, I'm sure you've received my letter. I'm so sorry for being so lazy! Please don't deactivate me! You know, I'm starting to regret I mentioned "The Day George Went Too Far" because it's one of those things I'll never finish and my friend Lisa has the original copy.

Oh, ya, give Luke a Corellian! I like that idea... Maybe Han has a little sister. (Who looks remarkably like a young Bette Midler? Ha!)

Mary Jo: I think you hit a nail on the head with your assessment of people being wary of fandom because of fear that someone will associate them as a whacked out dweeb. I have a lot of friends who I know think I'm strange for my interests concerning SW. I even have friends who are big sci-fi fans, going to many cons, who don't want to involve themselves in fandom, because of that image we've been unfairly given. (I have one friend who was willing to stand in line for six and a half hours for tickets to see Depeche Mode who thought I was crazy to drive to L.A. to go to the SW con in '87 ... in my mind, there isn't much difference, is there?)

Yes, yes! I agree with your statement about people who were 15-30 years old when they saw ANH. Except I was even younger, being the tender age of eight (I just gave my age away, huh? Oh, well...) when SW was released. I can remember playing with SW toys with all the other kids in the neighborhood. SW was a BIG part of my childhood. I'll never forget the day I "ditched" class to stand in line all day to finally see JEDI. The next day, Kathy (my partner in crime) and I were the talk of the freshman class as we *knew* if Darthie was Daddy. My impressions do run very deep because of things like that. I often wonder if the film had been released right now, if it would

have the same impact on me. I kind of doubt it.

I don't believe you're a heretic for saying something I agree with; I also would rather have no new film than have a bad film with the SW label. (The mere thought of Julia Roberts in a SW film is enough to give me nightmares.)

Ohhh, I love underground music! Depeche Mode is one of my favorite groups (and that above mentioned concert was awesome!) and I also really dig New Order and The Cure. So, don't feel bad; you're not alone!

Hiya, Lisa: I just loved your article. The book sounds quite interesting. Thanks for sharing it! I also loved your definition of a Mary Sue -- that was terrific!

Maggie: Well, you certainly got my curiosity at a peak. I am really looking forward to your zine concerning the history of fandom. But will someone please tell me what exactly was the "Church of Ford/Cathedral of Luke"? I don't know if I can wait for the zine to hear this story!

I love your idea for the story making Mothma and Mom twins and can't wait to read it. I also loved your idea for an alternate from issue #32. That sounds somewhat similar to an idea that I have where Darth raises the children. God knows I won't ever have the time to write that either!

Which leads me to Sandi's wonderful idea of publishing story outlines in zines. What do you think, Cheree? I would love to read all these ideas that time may not permit someone to write. Like you say, Sandi, perhaps another writer can fill in the blanks. ((Ed: Why not list it under the Authors/Artists Exchange if you have a story outline that's up for grabs? Then interested writers can contact you directly.))

To everyone saying they saw different versions of the films: Does anyone remember seeing scenes with Biggs? My friend Lisa swears she saw them when ANH was released. Also, I remember seeing Han looking out the window of the Bepin apartment and not Leia. Am I crazy or does anyone else remember this?

Well, I'm guess I've rambled on long enough. This letter certainly is longer than I intended it to be! Until next time, here's wishing everyone a blessed holiday season! May the Force be with Y'all!

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Barbara Anderson
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October 25, 1992

After receiving and reading my second issue of SE, I think I'm ready to try and become part of this galactic think-tank. Could kick myself for not subscribing sooner. Promise me something, though; promise me you'll tell me *before* printing this if I'm in danger of making a complete ass of myself. (Of course, it won't be the first time and I'm sure it won't be the last.)

Just recently returned from a trip to Orlando, Florida, and have decided that MGM Studios should be made a mandatory pilgrimage for anyone in fandom. Have a fantasy wish that MediaWest could be held down there on a one-time special basis. What a weekend that would be for role-playing. Especially with the Star Tours ride. I went six times and I could have spent the whole day on it. On the outside grounds, there's a full-scale sandskiff from ROTJ on display as well as a snow speeder, plus a full scale mock-up of an AT-AT! ... "Most impressive." Disney also had little Ewoks running around ... *could* have done without them, actually. The ride itself is the best and for an avid SW fan, it was like reaching the highest level of nirvana. One is taken down the Death Star trench, fired upon by TIE-fighters, caught in a tractor beam, and when the "ship" switches into hyperdrive ... the stars blur and burst on the screen, the ship tilts, you are pressed back in your seat and, personally, I shrieked with pure delight. It took no effort at all to totally believe I was on an Alliance shuttle that had just gone to lightspeed. If anyone in SW fandom gets the opportunity to go, run, do not walk ... but *do* collect \$200. I went ballistic in the gift shop and even the entrance to that is an exact replica of the entrance to the Imperial shield bunker on Endor. Yeah, I went over and pretended to try and hot wire the doors open.

Okay ... have stalled long enough. Though I've been in SW fandom for a while, I've never written to a letterzine before. This is rather a daunting undertaking; putting one's thoughts and opinions out there for so many people to read, react to and answer (if they choose) all at once. I imagine having the courage of one's convictions is a prime personality requisite to do this on a regular basis, but after

reading Carolyn G.'s letter and A. G. Steyn's, I started thinking that maybe a thick skin, a strong ego, a high sense of self-worth, and when cornered, an "I don't give a bantha's ass," attitude might also be appropriate. Their letters had me wondering if I'd need stormtrooper armor if I planned to express an unpopular or controversial opinion. Both gave the impression that they expected their ideas and feelings would unleash a tidal wave of either harsh criticism or unfavorable responses. But after finishing the entire zine, I don't think I have too much to worry about.

It's true that fandom as a whole is an opinionated bunch. We're very passionate about our "particular" interests, be it a series, a person or an idea, but I'd also like to think we're a *tolerant*, opinionated bunch. Most of us don't find ready acceptance in the mundane world and it's only in fandom that we feel comfortable and secure enough to wear our hearts on our sleeves, as it were.

Perhaps in the early days (I can only surmise from what I've heard and been told as I "discovered" fandom in 1985), when fandom was just being defined by fans themselves, tempers ran high, lines were drawn and, sadly, friendships were lost because of a difference in opinion. Since then, I think a lot of us have learned from such self-destructive behavior; hopefully, we've grown past the lock-step group mentality. It's always nice to find someone who thinks as you do, a soul-mate, but one shouldn't totally exclude those that don't. One of the greatest concepts to emerge from the Star Trek universe was IDIC ... Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations. I *think* I quoted that right. A difference of opinion is a sign of a healthy civilization. It encourages fresh thinking. It makes life interesting. Sameness is boring.

I *do* object to a difference of opinion for the sole purpose of *creating* a controversy, to set people one against another. If it's a sincere belief, fine, but if someone just wants to stir the pot so they can sit back and watch the anger grow and fester, then that person is a parasite feeding off of one of fandom's greatest strengths.

IMO, *Southern Enclave* is also one of fandom's strengths. It provides a valuable, needed service and sets an example. It's a meeting of minds, a forum to present ideas of all kinds without risk of personal censure. I don't believe that Carolyn has to worry about ropes or knives or that A. G. will be stoned to death by the SW gang, however tongue-in-cheek their statements were made. What they *will* receive will be

intelligent, perceptive answers with strong personal opinions as an aside, but all delivered without one molecule of malice. I think it comes down to respect. All the letters in SE have that same quality; respect for everyone's opinion, for everyone's personal interpretation of the universe.

Without further rhetoric ... here's mine in answer to some of yours. One more observation. Do you realize that with SW as a starting point, you've discussed religion, morality, anatomy and physiology, economics, sociology, art, music, literature, psychology, physics, chemistry, humor, English, foreign languages, history, human and xeno-biology, pharmacology, math, astronomy, philosophy, etc., etc.? There's an incredible amount of knowledge within the pages of each issue. Not only are we tolerant and opinionated, but we're also smart! (Did I mention talented and creative?)

Nora Mayers: Hi, cuz! You know, I agree with you on YJJC re "Old Henry". (I refuse to call that geriatric embarrassment "Indy".) I work in a nursing home and object to the way Indy is portrayed as an old man because it's a stereotypical portrayal. The character is cantankerous, rude, forgetful, bumbling and complaining. They could have had Indy aging with grace and dignity as is more the norm for the majority of the populace. For that matter, they should not have had Indy grow old at all. This is a character that should disappear into the sunset, or reported to have walked into a temple with a blinding light and never came out. His final fate should be unknown. If they needed some way to introduce the stories, a discovered diary could have been used or at least just shown the back of an aged Indiana's head, a child's eye view of his knees with the fedora in his lap and let the audience use their imagination as to what an old Dr. Jones would look like. And that facial scar ... are we to believe that there was at least *one* time our intrepid archaeologist zipped when he should have zagged? Nah ... not *my* Indiana Jones. He may get battered and beat, but he always comes up smiling.

Z. P. Florian: Hey, I've got a story in the new *Flip of a Coin* and Luke gets the girl!

Spice and spice ... what *is* spice? Could be different things to different species. It was a *mined* item as Threepio refers to the "spice mines of Kessel." I'm assuming the mines were Imperial run and spice was a marketable commodity and the Empire would take a dim view of anyone trying to cut into the profits. As for *what* it was ... a hallucinogenic, an

anti-aging compound, a mood-elevator. Like heroin or cocaine, it might have legal medicinal uses. Don't think it's a food additive ... though at one time simple salt was worth its weight in gold to those who didn't have it. Here's a thought ... it's a drug that counteracts some of the more unpleasant side effects of hyperdrive, like an anti-emetic. Would certainly be a popular item in that case. The Empire could withhold shipments to a planet and shut down their spaceports or at least restrict travel to in-system.

Re: The Force and the Jedi Knights as an ancient religion. The Jedi may not have started out as a "religion", but one may have begun around or about them as a means for the common folk, the ungifted to explain the "powers" the Jedi possessed. The Jedi just used it to their advantage. As for having to have "faith", that applies to almost any endeavor, mystical or not. If you don't believe you can do something, it's not going to happen.

Last but not least, along with computers in the home being as common as telephones, I'd like to add fax machines to that. Imagine instant rewrites from writer to zine editor without having to go through the unreliable, chancy, destructive Post Awful!

Marti Schuller: I always thought that a glowing, passed-on ectoplasmic Jedi could only remain visible for so long before the timer dinged. But this brings up a whole lot of other speculative questions. Where are all the Jedis when they're not visible? Another dimension, different plane of existence? Jedi heaven? And what are they doing or what can they do? Ben tells DV that he'll "become more powerful than you can possibly imagine," but I don't see Obi-Wan as being able to do anything as a spirit-Jedi except talk. I'm assuming only "good" Jedis get to go there. Dark Jedis apparently can't achieve that higher level of the Force, nor do they even know of its existence. Vader is mystified by the disappearance of Ben's body. When Vader died, did the good Jedis come down like Valkyries and whisk him off? And what if all the Jedis decided to materialize at one time ... in one spot? (If any of these questions have been debated and touched on in previous issues, just tell me it's old data and pay me no mind.)

As for what the Jedi of old did with Darksiders, maybe it was possible for a council of Jedi masters to take a Jedi's powers from him/her. Maybe they were put into stasis ... maybe they went into group therapy!

Tammy Olsen: I almost envy you ... with maybe your first MediaWest in your not-too-distant future.

With all the laughter, good feelings and synergy that is created during a MW weekend, it's a wonder Lansing doesn't glow. One word of advice, if you're planning on going and planning to zine shop: Better bring twice as much money as you did to Barcelona because you will find more zines than you can carry! Hope the Olympic trip was everything you wanted it to be. ((Ed: Another tip -- Try to get all your clothes into just one suitcase and pack a collapsible tote or overnight bag solely for bringing back your zines. Also invest in a "luggage wheelie" if you don't have one. I've done this for years and have had no trouble getting my zines home on the plane. Of course, if you drive, then remember to leave room in the trunk!))

Mary Jo Fox: Now I know that the question of "is she or isn't she?" (only her gynecologist knows for sure) with regard to Leia's sexual condition before Han has come up before in discussion, but it's always a fun topic. I like to think she was a virgin. Makes for terrific fan fic, rife with romance, humor, tension, and great sex scenes. Cool knowledgeable Leia so in control as a rebel leader and so out of control in Han Solo's embrace. (Hoo boy, it suddenly got very warm in here!)

You mentioned that Han got zapped in TESB without any damage to his reproductive equipment (Maker forbid!) using Leia's pregnancy in *Heir to the Empire* as a confirming factor. AU CONTRAIRE... I don't know *who* the father of Leia's twins is, but if the amount of emotion and affection that Timothy Zahn has written between Han and Leia in the two novels is any indication, it certainly *isn't* Han!

Catriona Campbell: (Lovely and striking first name ... at least on this side the Atlantic!) Re your reasons for not giving Luke a girl. You asked, I will tell you ... you're wrong. Can't speak for anyone else in fandom, but I know I put myself in every story I write, be it Leia or an original character and work at fulfilling private fantasies on paper. Good grief, what is writing for if not to place our favorite hero in situations that we have day-dreamed about?! That's how a story starts, as a private idea. It doesn't always have to be centered around a romance, but it doesn't hurt, either. Cheree's even *looking* for some old-fashioned romance. ((Ed: Don't let my husband hear you say that! He might not understand!)) There's a bit of MarySue in every story. It's the writer's skill that makes the difference between a MarySue that smacks you upside the head and one that is so subtle you don't recognize it for what it is. Don't let the fear of

a "tag" keep you from writing about Luke in love. At the very least, write the stuff just for yourself. The most important thing to remember is to continue to "have fun."

Why isn't there a male equivalent to MarySue, like "BillyBob"?

Debbie Kittle: Agree that the stories in the children's SW books are absurd, as are the new characters. The worst has to be the Imperial with the hanging blaster earrings. (I'm not kidding!) It's somebody's idea of a bad joke which is strange because the whip/musette bag and Ark of the Covenant that is in the display case in the illo of the Imperial museum in book 2 is someone's idea of a very good joke! I kind of like the idea of a Hutt in braids but naming him Zorba -- (give me Shorty's hat)! Anthony Quinn would have chest pains!

Matthew Whitney: Guilty pleasures and bad movies and Don Knotts -- have always loved *The Incredible Mr. Limpet*. Great animation melded with real people long before Roger Rabbit and friends.

A. G. Steyn: You've got a priceless, dry, low sense of humor. Thanks for the giggles.

With regard to your commentary on story editing and restrictions, I think you've got a live rancor by the tale. To me, it's reprehensible for an editor to change *anything*, in a submitted story without first asking and obtaining the author's permission, then informing the author of the changes and getting an okay on the changes. No exceptions! Conversely, the author has to be willing and open to accept the advice and expertise of the editor. Sometimes as authors, we're too close to our own material and can't see the need for improvement or correction. An objective editor can be invaluable. One has to respect (there's that word again) both sides and work together. I think one also has to keep the whole zine thing in perspective. Zines are out there for fun. Yes, they are near and dear to our hearts, but not a life and death event.

I think publishing guidelines and story restrictions are a good idea. An editor isn't someone who just collects stories and illos indiscriminately and slaps them together with a few staples. She's providing a product and people want to know what they're buying. If one goes to a Chinese restaurant, one expects to be served Chinese food, not Mexican. If I bought a Luke zine, I wouldn't expect to find a story featuring Han and would probably be quite miffed if I did. The editors who are stipulating what they will or will not accept are catering to either a specific group or to a

wide audience in which they are trying to appeal to as many people as possible while not offending anyone. I agree that the latter makes for bland reading at times, but the final objective of an editor is to sell her zines. She's not telling you what you can or cannot write, just what she'll accept. No one can tell you what to write! Actually, these editors who do lay down pre-set story restrictions are doing a favor for those authors whose work would be turned down if submitted. Knowing what an editor will accept or won't, saves times, hurt feelings and postage.

Last, the editor sets the tone of the zine. The material she accepts is usually a reflection of her own interests and tastes. She has the right to say, "I don't want to read or type any story with slash/sex/violence in it because I personally find it offensive." There are enough zines out there that even the most outrageous story can find a home, though I don't think there's a zine editor alive who would print *anything* by Madonna. We all have much better tastes than that! One can also *work with* an editor. If you have a *good* literary reason for your "no-no" scene or plot, chances are that an editor will bend her rules. Ask yourself as a writer, "Am I putting this particular scene in for shock value or titillation, or is it important to the story?" If it's gratuitous *anything*, then it probably doesn't belong in the first place.

Nuff said from me, but Cheree was right. I predict this is definitely going to be a subject of debate for at least the next 3-4 issues of SE. Might even wind up as a panel at MediaWest.

Anne-Virginie Dutech: Why couldn't Luke influence Jabba? The simplest answer would be because Jabba did not have a weak mind, but maybe that is the answer. A strong personality, a leader-type, take-charge person might be able to fight off or resist the voice-control ability of a Jedi. The two times we see this ability utilized, both beings -- Bib Fortuna and the stormtrooper -- are people who have an inherently easily manipulated mind to begin with. They are both *used* to being told where to go and what to do.

Han Solo's background: If I remember correctly (and there is vast room for error in that statement), George's original bio had Han being abandoned/orphaned and raised by Wookiees -- not exactly normal middle class. Brian Daley (can we have him canonized?) (or at least ask him to give Timothy Zahn some pointers?) wrote that Han attended the Space Academy -- which means he probably returned to Corell at some point and obtained some formal edu-

cation. Not necessarily a prince or a gutter rat. Maybe he was a ward of the state or had a mysterious benefactor? Oh, Lord -- story idea #62. I'm going to quit while I'm ahead.

Query for the masses. Any thoughts on *Covington Cross*, the new television series set in Medieval England? A total 180° from SW, I know, but I enjoy the series very much (one more TV series about angst-ridden teenagers from California and I was going to experience some reverse esophageal peristalsis!). The costumes are glorious; SCA members should take this right to their hearts, but I can also see cross universe possibilities with *Robin Hood* and *Beauty and the Beast* (via a conveniently discovered time portal in the tunnels). Vincent already has the clothes! Some in fandom are going to take the series and run with it like a terrier with a slipper down the stairs. The zine stories are probably in the outline stage as I write this but it won't last. It's different and innovative, a sure kiss of death on TV.

You know, in addition to being fun, writing this has been an education. I've learned things about myself as well as learning from you. Hope everyone had a safe, joyous holiday season and that so far it's been a happy new year. We've got a lot to look forward to. Uncle George has said we're going to see the SW *FIRST* trilogy by the year 2000. What a way to bring in a new millennium!



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October 24, 1992

Number 5 lives. I do, too ... but just barely. Some of you have been to "Hell Con" -- I have been to "Hell Diego". When in doubt, go ask Leanne!

Yeah, Corellian holidays. Always following the motto: How wonderful a feeling when the pain subsides! In week #2, I managed to slam the iron gate leading to the pool area on my right index finger. WHAM! For a while, I was taking a trip through the galaxy ... (stars, stars, stars!). After that I spent one exciting hour trying to get a blood stain (from my busted finger) out of a delicate knit top. A helpful hint: if all else fails -- try toothpaste! It worked for me this time. Now my knit top will never get cavities!

For the rest of the week, my LEFT arm felt like it wanted to come off at the elbow. If this doesn't make sense to you, join the club. It didn't make sense to me neither.

In week #3, I AGAIN cracked a molar that has developed a strange habit of chipping in the month of September (1985 in Golconda, Nevada; 1991 in San Diego, CA, and now again in 1992 in San Diego). So I spent an hour at the dentist's office and had it fixed. It didn't hurt -- until I had to pay for it. 90 bucks cash! Gulp. The dentist is a very nice guy, tho. (And his name is Luke, by the way. Just for the record.)

In week #4, I pulled 2 stunts practically simultaneously. On Wednesday, September 23rd, a strong gust of wind picked up some very fine dust and blew it into my right eye (under my contact lens). I felt a slight irritation, but nothing that would have scared the socks off me. On Thursday, the irritation grew, so by 3 pm I took out the lens to give the eye a rest. Matters grew worse during the course of the day. At 11 pm, I wanted to prepare a cup of tea. Seeing only with one eye and rummaging around in a dark nook of the room, I didn't register how full the cup already was. Little wonder I managed to spill the entire contents of the cup -- in other words: piping hot tea -- over my left hand. YEOW! Advice to His Shady Lordship: in case the scanner grid fails to make a lasting impression on certain spacers, try the "tea party" method.

Holding the hand under running water helped only

a little, so I went and got a bucket of ice and soaked my hand all night long. Try sleeping with your arm dangling down, your hand immersed in ice and water ... it makes for a wonderfully stiff neck/shoulder area. In the morning the pain in my paw had finally subsided. But not the pain in my eye. When I turned on the bathroom light, it felt as if someone stuck a lightsword in my right eye and out my left ear. OUCH! With an eye that sensitive to light and almost swollen shut, my weekend plans went on the fritz p.d.q. Instead of going places, I went to the Sharp Cabrillo Med Center and had my orb examined. The doc found a whole bunch of tiny dents on the surface of the cornea and prescribed some medicine. Two tiny bottles. 45 bucks. Eye exam: 98 bucks. Cab to/from the hospital: 13 bucks. All in all: 156 credits. These vacations weren't only painful, they were EXPENSIVE!

Oh, yes, and before I forget: I was involved in a car accident. No, nothing to really worry about. Just a minor mishap that left Leanne gasping for breath like a Sithlord after running up a steep hill -- and moi with a slightly stiff neck for the rest of the day. We did have lots of fun that day, tho. We went up to the "Big Crange" (L.A.) to meet with some old friends, then went to downtown Hollywood, took snapshots of the hand/footprints of Harrison, George, Steven and associates ... and went across the street to have lunch at the "Hamburger Hamlet", where we marvelled at the huge Indy/Steve mural, munched our burgers and talked stuff unfit to be printed in any self-respecting magazine.

I confess, I just couldn't resist laying my hand into Harrison's hand-print. Perfect fit! If the rest of ole HF's anatomy fits mine just as well, I might have to kill Melissa and drag "Indiana Solo" to the altar (I could have said "bed" but I wanted to make this legal).

During my second week in Diego, I rode the Amtrak north to Anaheim and met with Lisa Cowan, who gave me an exclusive tour through her beautiful new home, an "oh, Wow!" look at her collection of Hamill/Lucas material, and (aside from a tasty lunch) an in-depth look behind the scenes, so to speak. One amazing little lady.

Meeting Leanne and Lisa made up for all the trouble I encountered in those 4 weeks, and the two girls deserve a medal for putting up with me without throwing Donald Duckesque temper tantrums or pushing me over the railings of the Coronado Bay Bridge. Thanks a zillion, pals!

Well, so much for my trip. And now on to issue #33 of SE...

Hooray ... all out war! Takes a damn ugly Kraut to start one, hmm? Me and my big mouth ... but then: this is a free galaxy and everybody has the right to his own opinion -- and mistakes, or at least I think...

I'm standing to what I said about (a) editing and (b) self-applied restrictions in our fandom. So, if you think I'm an asshole or a conceited ape: voice your opinions, friends. I'm dying to hear what you think/feel about these issues.

However, I would like to point one thing out: The bitching between Cheree and yours truly is (at least from my point of view) strictly a "business" matter. Personally, I have no reason to cross lightswords with her. From the few letters we exchanged before the incident as well as from what Leanne Wingo told me, I got the impression that Cheree is a very nice person. What started the argument was that I had submitted several short stories that were partially accepted, partially passed on to another zine editor, and partially returned. So far, so good. The ones returned were, on second reading, really BLAH! I was, however, not aware that the ones kept or passed on would undergo editing. And I was never informed about changes made in the script, and why (which would have been very important for me to know). So I was first shocked, then solidly miffed -- and I let Cheree know in a private letter, as I wanted to keep this strictly between the two of us. Cheree, however, made it clear that she was not going to discuss these matters "under the table", i.e., exchange private mail over the issue, but was only going to deal with this via *Southern Enclave*. So here we are. Reading Carolyn Golledge's last LoC, I find that Cheree did contact her to point out gaps in the story, make suggestions for improvements, etc., and did everything "by the book." As Cheree did not do so in my case, I can only assume that she somehow forgot to notify me/ask my permission for editing. If there were other reasons (even if they are totally personal), I want to know what they were. So, please, tell me, Cheree. This stupid hackle is getting us nowhere fast. If you DID notify me, but the letter got lost in the mail, I'm sorry for getting on your case. Things like that happen all the time. If you forgot to notify me ... hey, my mind's only good for washing the starch out of the spaghetti. If I don't take down notes and tack 'em to my office walls, I'll forget EVERYTHING within 5 minutes.

But if there are other reasons...

Ooops -- someone or something ate the tail of my LoC. It wasn't THAT bad, or was it, dear editor? ((Ed: Sorry, my fault. I didn't realize the partial reprint of the LoCs had chopped off part of that page. It wasn't intentional! And I have corresponded privately with A.G. since her LoC came in.))

The picture section is great. And another STAR WARrior owning a horse. Is everybody in this fandom mounted on his/her own hossy -- everybody but me, that is? This isn't fair. HALVIESS! C'mon, share your wealth, friends. If you all pitch in, one of your sending me an ear, another one an eye, a leg, a tail ... maybe by the end of next March I can glue the pieces together and finally have a nag of my own. (With my luck, I'll end up with an alien monster with 7 legs, 3 ears, one eye, 2 pricks, 3 mouths, and 9 tails.)

And now the LoCs...

Carolyn: A fanzine without a good "bruise/mendie" story is a fanzine I wouldn't buy. I want a little of EVERYTHING. So keep trashing the Corelian. I'll lick his wounds any day. I come from a fandom where one of the two heroes was also the "trashing" point of every 2nd story. And that wasn't the only thing we did to the poor cutie...

I did try to trash young Skywalker lately, but have the feeling the fandom/zines aren't ready for that yet. Hey, any sadists out there who want to do a "see who trashes whom best" competition?

So you liked my Royal Abbreviations? Thanks. In the future, I will probably sign letters with: "Your Royal Pain in the Butt." (Did I just hear you say "Amen", Cheree?)

Nora: Right on, Nora. I had the same thought. Why did GL have to link this new TV series to Indy? If he had called it "The Adventures of Billy Smith", I would have agreed: a fine series and really different from what we usually see on the small screen. But quite frankly: what I've seen of the new YJC up to now had -- IMO -- nothing in common with "my" beloved big screen Indiana. In the movies, we get a Henry, Sr. who is a desk-and-library, scholarly type of archaeologist whose prime interest is medieval literature and the search for the Holy Grail. In the series, old Father Jones is zipping through the world (going to Egypt, for instance, where you are unlikely to find any medieval literature on the crusade and the grail) and meeting all kinds of famous celebs of the time. And young Indy is tagging along, obviously not needing to attend school regularly. Young Jones later on

wastes costly time by fighting for the Belgian army (as an American?) while he should really be studying for his high school diploma. The Indy I know from the big screen is just not the kind of guy who would follow trails that would not lead direct to the goal he has set for himself. I could picture young Indy doing all kinds of funny, unorthodox things at his high school, and later at various universities. I also could picture him joining his professor on excavation expeditions during semester breaks. The YIJC is an attempt to produce the "egg-laying wool-milk-sow", combining lectures on world history and moralizing tales with one of the best-beloved adventure heroes of our time. For me, it doesn't work. And yes, an old Indy running to a doc because of a bee sting is ridiculous. The way I know him, he'd run to a girlfriend for some TLC. ("And it hurts there, too!")

Z. P. Florian: Luke at a state banquet? I don't know ... cute as that kiddo may be, his table manners leave something to be desired. Just LISTEN to him eat his rations on Dagobah. (Keep your trap shut while chewing, Skywalker -- we can't hear the score of John Williams' music.)

About Darthie's "equipment": I always wondered what that little sliding door in front of his "lower armor" was for. If there's nothing there, then why would he need that door? Or is that just to make him look like he still could, if only he wanted?

Spice? I once read somewhere (in an official SW publication, if I remember right), that said "spice" is a strong aphrodisiac. So "Spanish Fly" comes close, hon. And sale of the stuff is obviously controlled by (if not entirely in the hands of) the Imps.

And what would Luke say if Kenobi casually told him: "By the way, that was your pop you just cut in half"? Probably, "Ooops!"

A doll exhibition? I'll join you as soon as I'll find a place that sells life-size, life-like Han and Luke dolls. Maybe I ought to try my luck at a place that sells "blow up" companions, for private hours? It wouldn't be too far off, since Han is full of hot air, anyway, most of the time. And just think of the opportunity to give the boys a ... job should they start leaking air.

Are we two the only people who consider Uncle Owen a grouchy kid- and wife-abusing bastard? I remember reading in *Skywalking* (Dale Pollock) that GL originally had plans to make Owen a real mean old man, even stealing Luke's money! See, I know why I wrote that bit about Owen beating up Luke...

About faith and the Force: Some people can walk over glowing coals, without getting burned. Physical explanation: a fine film of sweat on the soles of the feet will form kind of a cushion between the fire and the skin, enabling you to cross the fire (quickly, of course) without burning your "dogs". But what triggers this "perspiration on command"? It seems the result of auto-suggestion. And auto-suggestion calls for strong faith in your abilities and the matter itself. Just look at what some East Indian people can do: pierce their tongue, lips or cheeks with spears -- without feeling any pain or bleeding. The incisions by the spears don't even leave scars! By the way, did (as a kid) you ever try the game of making other people do what you wanted them to do by just thinking? I did, and my Dad did. And Mom states she did it, too -- and a lot of other folks I know. Leaning out a window, you watch some person strolling by and start thinking: You there. You're going to turn around before you reach the corner. Turn around. Turn around... And in 8 out of 10 cases, the person will actually stop and turn his head or turn around entirely before reaching the corner, and obviously not knowing why. Great fun! Haven't tried it in years.

Keep my WHAT dry? Wookiee? Sorry, m'dear -- no such beastie around my place. And I'm having enough to do with keeping myself dry after watching certain guys. (And I don't mean dabbing my eyes!)

Marti: Oh, look -- someone who actually LIKES my warped style and wants more of it. Are you aware that you are very lonely out there? I mean, there are not many in SW fandom who are dying to read more of what I turn out. I'm just too cuckoo...

Don't get me started on moderate temperatures. Winter is coming up with giant steps here in Teutonia. There has already been some snow during the second week of October up in the mountains of Bavaria and Baden-Wuerttemberg (southern Germany). Here in the valley of the lower Rhine, near the Dutch border, where the climate is strongly influenced by the North Sea, it's rainy and cool, sometimes already COLD with temperatures down to the freezing point. Brrr! Someone take me back to Hell Diego, please!

Macauley Culkin as young Palpie? Now THAT's a great suggestion. And so fitting...

Maggie: Dear Maggie, it's not so much what I have forgotten than what I've never known about SW that keeps bugging me. Remember, if there's a bright center to the universe, I'm living on the "planet" that

it's farthest from.

Are you sure the book was really on uncle Adolf and cousin Josef and not really on uncle Palpie in the first place? Geez, this is creepy... Now I would love to know if old GL knew this book and modeled Palpatine after the aforementioned guys.

Tammy: Welcome! And since you didn't finish my ill-famed quote, I'll take the audacity and add the "...d". And after reading the LFL article on the planned SW se-/prequels ... are you happy or not? I would be, if only I could be sure that I'll live that long ... mind you, I'm almost 34 and beginning to feel the Force fade...

Mary Jo: The princess a VIRGIN? Our Leia? Never. She had only never "tried" a Corellian. But she was just too skilled in the verbal battle of the sexes and the flirting game, and too much aware of Han's dangerous charms to be a "blank page".

A "fax-orgy"? The only fax in my vicinity is the machine at the office. And my boss will have my ass for breakfast if I dare to mail my "never ending stories" via that machine.

Hmmm, I've been called a lot of things during my life, but a "crazy anarchist"??? Dammit, you know me so well -- people will think you took care of me in the looney bin. "Yeah, I am a Corellian, and yeah, I am a crazy anarchist ... so what?" (Grin!)

Jennifer: Ole Ben got himself maneuvered into a mighty tight spot and with his back to the wall didn't know what to do next. So, instead of taking the responsibility, he took the easy way out and (as suicide is -- according to the M.A.S.H. theme song -- painless) committed self-murder by lowering his defenses and letting Darthie chop him to fishbait.

You didn't expect a serious answer from me, or didcha?

Well, maybe old Ben realized that he could be more of a help to young Luke after joining the Force. Luke would be forced to rely more on himself and not cling to a teacher/father figure for moral support. Just a wild guess here...

Catriona: "Aw, come on -- it sounds better that way!" ?? That's what I'm always trying to tell my publishers. Trouble is, they're not buying it...

Treena, if all the girls in your stories are as down to earth and believable as your heroine in "Missing", I don't see any danger of ever tripping over the dreaded "Mary Sue" wire ... as I did with my first (non-SW) fanfic. AWFUL!!

The right time to tell Luke would, IMO, have been

once Luke started talking about leaving the farm and joining the academy, hence, start living independently on his own. A person has a right to know who he is and who his ancestors were. It may be too much for a small kid, but a young man ready to leave the nest should be emotionally secure enough to face the facts.

Pity? For what? I've told you before -- I'll tell you again: I LOVE "Missing". And if THAT was your first story, then I'm dying to read the ones you turn out now. Keep up the good work. (And don't skip the "h/c" stuff ... I'm a sadist and need that to drool over.

NO ONE knew ... I was referring to an interview with director Irv Kershner (Lucasfilm Fanclub Magazine #11) and I'll quote:

"So I studied fairy tales and that's why, when we got into the part that Luke Skywalker discovers he's Darth Vader's son, I found elements of that theme in fairy tales. But that story was kept a secret. We didn't even have that in the script. Nobody knew that, not even the actors. I had a page that I took when I was in California that was a substitute page for the scene when Luke is screaming at Vader and hanging on to that pole. Those words were put away in my book and when it came time to shoot, I explained it to Mark. But when he was saying, 'No, no, I don't believe it!', Darth Vader was saying totally different things than what you hear in the film. He wasn't saying, 'I am your father! We'll rule the galaxy together!' He was saying, 'You're going to do what I say!' (Laughter) So he had totally different lines. Then, when we went to put it together, we put the real words in. But Mark knew because I told him ahead of time. I told him he was Vader's son and he thought it was great. And he acted it magnificently! He was hanging there by a nylon cord over 40 feet of nothing with wind blowing him. I had fans and smoke aimed right at him. It was really quite dangerous -- I worried about it, too, and that's what made it so effective. When I went to the Command Performance in England of 'The Empire Strikes Back', in back of me was sitting David Prowse who was the body of Darth Vader. When the scene came on where Vader says, 'I am your father', Dave hit me on the head! (Laughter) He leaned over and said, 'Why didn't you tell me! I would've acted differently!'"

About behind-the-scenes secrets given away by a member of the cast ... I have heard certain rumors, but I am not sure if I should say anything here. And, no, it's neither MH nor HF.

Deja-vu -- and Luke remembering a past life? I once had the same thought inside my old jughead. Hmmm, I've had some exciting deja-vu happenings in my time, but I'm still puzzled over how a vegetable would take mental notes on its surroundings in a way that they'd still be remembered in an afterlife as a half-human?

By the way, the company I work for has a daughter company (THOR Ceramics) in Scotland (a plant in Clydebank, and an office in Edinburgh).

Debbie: Since you read *Dark Force Rising* without falling asleep, would you please wake up Leanne and me and tell us how the story ends? (You get it: we were not amused.)

Sandi: Too many mates for Luke? Hey, there's never too much of a good thing!

Blame it on Golledge? Ole Ben will like to hear that. At last, someone who doesn't put the blame on him!

And if it sounds like I'm making "ole Gridface" look like Mr. Nice Guy, it's only because I'm afraid he might one fine day appear on my doorstep to have a word with me in private!

Michelle Malkin: Hi, there, Mrs. Jabba. De wanna wanga?

Did I really do that to you? Shame on moi. Blush! Oh, by the way: a "/" between your name and Jabba's would not have been appropriate: (a) you two are not of the same sex ... and (b) slash is a no-no in this fandom!

No, I don't remember friend Boba in *Robin of Sherwood*. Good looking? How could I have missed him?!

Tim: You little devil, you. What a provoking thought about the Jedi as lovers... Gotta find myself such a Force-user IMMEDIATELY. But with all the Jedi leading such pious lives, I might have to put up with the old stand-up ... uh, stand-BY, Han Solo.

Lovemaking too intense for Luke? It just occurred to me that maybe Jedi don't need to have active sex (unless for reproductive purposes), but get their kicks by mindlinking with other people having an exciting time together. But hold it right there... Luke mindlinking with Han while he's doing it with Leia? INCEST!! Luke mindlinking with Leia while she's with Han? SLASH!! Good golly ... that doesn't leave him with much of a choice, huh? Caught between the devil and the deep blue sea...

You mention the scene where Han jumps through the closing blast door (ANH, Death Star scenario).

Watching that scene I have the notion that poor ole HF had some trouble finding his feet after barely making it through the door. The landing was highly unstable, and I wonder if he actually kissed the floor or found his balance in due time?

Cheryl: My initials stand for a first and middle name I couldn't care less about. You will find out reading the thing I'm compiling for the Crew Roster files. If you don't like my initials, simply call me "Fritz". But never use my full name -- or I'll personally show you the Dark Side of the Force (and knowing you, you'd probably even like that). DARTHIE for PRESIDENT! It's better than the other 3 stooges applying for the job now. And, yes, you are quite welcome to do a story on "Lando the Space Playboy." Just don't expect me to write it. At least not within the next 2 years. I've got 3 unfinished stories sitting around here, waiting to be typed. Plus a bunch of toons that I will have to draw within the coming weeks.

Anne-Virginie: Welcome! I would like to greet you in French but I'm just learning that (very difficult) language and any try would only have you in stitches. Therefore, a plain and simple "hello" will have to do.

My old man has been to southern France during the war (first Sete, then Perpignan, finally Port Vendres, where he was with the Harbor Police (German Navy). Dad liked it down there.

Reasons why I made Han a ghetto kid instead of a lad with a normal middle-class background? Yes, it could be that Han comes from a perfectly normal family (hey, we're talking family values here, Mr. Vice President). But somehow I doubt that -- in my fave pirate's favor.

Being born in the gutter and -- from life's earliest stages on -- faced with misery and hardships, never really having a fair chance and never being able to develop trust and deep emotions, a person can turn to crime out of utter desperation. This doesn't make the crime less ugly or more acceptable, but it makes the wrongdoings at least understandable -- from a certain point of view.

On the other hand, being born in a perfectly normal, healthy middle class family and raised in nice surroundings by understanding and caring parents willing to take the responsibilities raising a child puts on them, providing the kid with everything it needs emotionally as well as physically, a person should normally have no "need" to go to the bad. If a person with a background like this crosses the line, he does

so because he chooses to be bad. He is not driven by things more or less beyond his control; he is into crime because he

(a) wants to get back at his parents for some odd reason (I hate them because they threw out my friend);

(b) is bored and considers a life on the shady side/on the edge adventurous, heroic and exciting -- and maybe as a good ego-booster. (This is often the case with members of youth gangs);

(c) is a psychopath who gets his kicks by abusing other people, animals, etc.;

(d) is a lazy bastard who tries to get through life the "easy" way (i.e., without doing serious work and paying taxes) by robbing, stealing, mugging, defrauding the welfare systems/insurance companies, burglarizing, dealing drugs/illegal guns, etc.

(e) is tied up with a political/religious extremist group and commits crimes (terrorist acts, kidnappings, hijackings, traitory, espionage, sabotage, assassination, etc.) in its favor.

Sounds horrible, does it? So, since I'd rather have my Han being a desperado than a psycho, a terrorist or a petty criminal by his own choosing, I imagine for him a past he doesn't care to remember.

Looking at the listing of his crimes (one official sourcebook from WestEnd Games has it that he's the 4th most wanted man in the galaxy!) -- among them 27 (!) piracies, killings (Greedo, for instance), plus various major crimes against the Empire -- I'd say that, if this Han is a man who has had the chance to lead a perfectly normal life, but chose against it, then he's not a hero, but a sonofabitch to be hated. That's why I try to see him rather as a victim of circumstances than of his own vicious self. Mind you, piracy is -- in real life -- not nearly as heroic/romantic as the swashbuckling movies have it. And smuggling can go from "minor offenses" (smuggling tea, coffee, cigarettes) to serious "major crime" (smuggling drugs, guns, pelts/hides of endangered species, etc.). Killings and woundings can be done in self-defense, but also in cold blood. So we will have to think carefully when tackling the subject if we want to keep Han a basically nice guy and hero of the rebellion.

Did you ever watch *The Frisco Kid*? Harrison stated that the character of Tommy Lillard is actually a parody of Han Solo. So, when Tommy yells at the rabbi, "I'm a bankrobber and a gambler and a whore-monger...", it's actually Han Solo he's referring to.

About writing fanfic in English ... please recon-

sider. Z. P. and I both come from foreign countries and are writing in a language not our "own". Somehow, it works. And we need more good fanfic and bunches of fresh approaches to the old saga.

Tina: Darthie secretly snacking under that helmet?? How's he going to push the chocolate through the "cow catcher" in front of his snoot? Maybe if he uses only chocolate CHIPS?

It is impossible to throw Vader up against a wall and plug him full of holes ... you know, the man just sticks out his hand and simply deflects all the bullets flying at him! Besides, how are you going to throw something of that caliber? With a catapult?

Darth Vader auf Deutsch? Hmm, actually -- there is no translation for this. Darth could be an intentional misspelling of Dark and Vader is Dutch, meaning father. So, it would read "Dark Father". Simple, huh? And that, translated into German, would be: "Dunkler Vater". Which, as you will admit, just doesn't have the same magnificent ring to it. By the way, are you German? You are certainly of German descent, that much is clear. Background info, please!

How many fell asleep reading DFR? At least two -- Leanne and I, as mentioned before. And in volume III, Leia will prick her finger with a rose thorn and everybody in the galaxy will fall into the black sleep of Kali Ma...

Luke does WHAT to his old man? Shoot -- my machine doesn't have slow motion! Now I can't really verify if what you've seen is right. I CAN tell you about all kinds of scenes from big and small screen pix where the hero of the story gets "excited" so much it shows. And this, Leanne Wingo, was your cue ... any comments? Or do you want to discuss the matter in a book store??? (Insider joke, sorry, folks.)

OK, that's it for today. This LoC has gotten a lot longer than what I had intended it to be. Poor, poor Cheree. Forgive me. Puleeezzze!!! (Beg. Whine. Whimper.)

Anyway, loved reading you all and I wish you people a very merry Christmas/Hanakkah/LifeDay ... or whatever ... and a great, successful, fun-filled lust-crazed 1993!

Lots of love -- A.G. (Uncle Palpie's Court Jester!)

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Z. P. Florian
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I am afraid this is going to be a long one...

Carolyn Golledge: Trashing Han. You know, you've never really trashed him at all. I've read stories about Admiral James Stockdale as a prisoner of war and, compared to that, your Han was handled with kid gloves. Stockdale's plane was shot down, he broke a shoulder, dislocated a leg, which later was broken by his interrogator, he spent weeks in a cell, on the floor, without treatment, was beaten for talking to his fellow prisoners, slit his own wrists to convince his abusers that he wouldn't cooperate, slashed his own face to make sure that in photographs he didn't look presentable, and so on. Spent seven years like that. When he came home, he looked like a skeleton. His spirit was never broken. Besides, your Han is wonderful when he is trashed. For godsake, no one can live on stories describing Han having breakfast, lunch, dinner and going to sleep! I mean, something must happen, to test him, to push him to the limit, to bring the best out in him. A mild case of the flu just won't do the job.

Marti Schuller: So, you are afraid of flying? Me, too. I have my own secret that gets me through it: never fly sober. Beats holding hands! Eddings? Almost, but not quite. About punishing a Jedi for falling to the Dark Side -- huh? Kenobi had the recipe: lava pit! If that didn't work, take his son and get him to kill Daddy.

MaggieNo: I refuse to believe that anyone could be a ST fan and say that Amanda was guilty of bestiality because Sarek was not created in God's image. What are fundamentalists watching ST for, anyway? The SW fandom chronology zine is a great idea! I missed the golden days and I'd like to know about them! Hey, what am I saying? THESE are the golden days!

Tammy Olsen: Huh? I hope your letter is different from all the others. That's what letters are for! Come to MWC -- you'll see how different everybody is.

Everybody: Dark Horse Comics accepts subscriptions and sends all issues at once!!! MUST for all of you! Not just the comics, but the incredible amount of info on the Dark Side, the Jedi past, Palpie, etc. Next year, they will make a series about old Jedi legends! Will make you dizzy!

Mary Jo Fox: I don't think Leia was a virgin. I kind of like the stories where she is a very sophisticated, experienced princess, but selective enough to keep Han at arm's length, until she is ready. Yeah, Luke is grand when he is dark and threatening and desperate -- as long as I know that his ultimate goal is to destroy Palpatine. He has a beautifully noble and darkly suicidal attitude in the comics! Love those blazing eyes!

Catriona Campbell: See above. Re: Mary Sue, yes, one sort of becomes very timid with those female characters. Illos for "Missing" -- Churko made some, for the fun of it. Ask her to show it to you. I've seen them (brag, brag). As for Kenobi being a fallible human being, uh, how fallible is grooming a wide-eyed boy to be his father's murderer? I call it cold-blooded political manipulation. A more personal note: People are touching you because they like you. Human beings die without being touched (newborns and old people actually do!). Touch and live longer, you'll have more time to write stories like "Missing."

Debbie Kittle: The Death Star must have had a black box, or instant communication with the nearest Imp center. I am sure Luke's happy entrance to Leia's cell was broadcast all over the place.

A. G. Steyn: On editing. There is a tremendous difference between American and European ideas about the art of writing. Where I come from -- and I guess, it's not far from where A. G. comes from -- a writer is a direct channel between the Divine and the Masses, a kind of sacred fool, whose words can not be altered. Whereas in the USA, a writer is a professional, who skillfully creates a marketable commodity. If it requires alterations, one can assume that the editor does her best to improve the story. After all, she has to sell the stuff! This is the business part of it.

There is a fairness part, as well. It is the editor who provides the sandbox (her sweat and blood and printer and time and grocery money); she should have the right to say, "Okay, you can build your sandcastles in my sandbox, but I don't want to get it muddy, so please no wet stuff." The editor gives a kind of profile to a zine and, if it's a Lukezine, why not say, "Please, no Han stories"? Nothing wrong with a zine having its own character and style. Of course, a major change would require the author's permission (for example, if the editor wants to change a passionate kiss to a resounding slap!), but you'll always find an editor who accepts your story without major changes.

For the record, I do enjoy heavy erotica, unex-

plored interracial, interspecies sexual adventures, including slash, provided it is well written. But there is as much excitement in exploring the "luminous being" as in fondling the "crude matter", so I don't mind going either way! I was toying with plans of making a SW zine in defiance of the "Lucas Purity Policy" (I planned to call it "The Rest of the Garbage") and I found out that the idea was highly unpopular. Think of it, A.G., we write because we want people to read it happily, not because we want to ram it down their throats.

Another thing for the record -- I had the pleasure of reading A.G.'s stuff both in *Tremor* and in the original form and I must say that the changes were either very minor or necessary. In all my "career" as a SW fan writer, I've felt only once that my story was over-edited, and not by Cheree, either. IMO, Cheree's touch on my stories was light and very helpful (I got compliments on sentences that *she* changed for the better! Boy, was I embarrassed...).

Sandi Jones: Thanks a million for the editing offer. I take it! As for you being a hopeless romantic, well, the Shauni-romances are everything but hopeless! And about that Churko drawing-story, get cracking, 'cause mine is all done!

Tim Blaes: Absolutely! A Jedi in bed might be too intense for his own good and for his partner: his sensitivity would make him the perfect lover and then he'd need a baseball bat to beat all those swooning girls off himself! Rather have a few and far between, some special ladies who can handle it.

Kathy Agel: I take you at your word, too. Just wait. Mutant Ninja Editor? Great name!

Anne-Virginie Dutech: Bienvenue! And don't tell me that writing in a foreign language is a source of headache and frustration. It's more like navigating an asteroid field with your shields down -- exhilarating! (My compliments on your wonderful dark story in *From a Certain Point of View* #5! Got me right in the guts!) I loved your ideas on communication frequencies! There must be a story in that (Chewie having a chat with the Emperor, due to a frequency foul-up?). If you go to Scotland to see Campbell, please hug her for me. I loved "Missing". Radio tapes: best and closest source for you is Cloud City (Fiorenzo Delle Rupi) in Italy.

Cheryl Pryor: I am not going to MWC as Yoda, period. That green mask would cover my mouth and then how could I talk you guys to death?

Tina Bentrup: rote 2 letres 2 yoo, yoo never

ansred, eh? Ah never trust a bule Jawa agin! Besides, Luke nicks Vader on the right shoulder, or else my copy is not the same as yours.

Last words: Lucas said (in the club newsletter) that he is going to do the first three movies, filmed back to back, between 1995 and 2000, we should all live that long. It will be aimed at the 14-or-so audience, like the previous ones, and it will be about Anakin and Kenobi.

Bye, now! I love you all (I hope you'd all say, "I know!")!

SW Collecting Special

Tammy Olsen
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November 4, 1992

Did any of you see the SW Collecting Special on October 28 on the QVC Shopping Network? I got the Lucasfilm Magazine announcing the program only days before it aired. That didn't give me much time to find someone who got the station. One day before, I found someone! So I went to her house (it was a friend of my mother's) and sat in front of her TV from 10pm-12 am. It was a great program and Mark Hamill made it even better!

Z. P. Florian: I love the idea of Luke at a state dinner. What a great story this would make.

I don't think much of Vader's body survived the "volcano". Therefore, he doesn't have the right equipment! In my opinion. I think the Force can only be controlled well by certain families and others must be trained to see if they could possibly use the Force. This includes members of families who don't know they have the Force.

Macauley Culkin playing a young Luke!! Oh, gods, I hope not.

Lisa Cowan: I always enjoy reading your articles on SW.

Mary Jo Fox: I disagree! Jedis make better lovers.

Jennifer Moore: I think Ben truly loved and

cared for Luke and by giving his life in front of Luke, I think he was showing Luke and giving him more reasons to go after Vader.

Catriona Campbell: I have not read the definition of a "Mary Sue". Most of the stories I write have Luke with a girl. I don't care if people think I am putting myself in the girl's place, which, by the way, I am not. I just don't see many stories about this subject. That's why I write so many of them. I would love to read some of your "Luke and the girl" stories.

Have you heard about the SW saga being released in letterbox in November? (Ed: *Hey, how does everyone feel about letterbox format? Personally, I hate it. I always feel like I'm sitting in the ninth balcony and need binoculars to see it!*)

That's all for now. Have a wonderful holiday. May the Force be with you! Walk the Sky!

Trashing

Catriona Campbell
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November 6, 1992

Hi! And thank you all for your warm welcome. I feel like I've finally found and joined the "family" I had observed from afar for so long! I'm just trying to work out why it took me so long to add my voice!

Carolyn Golledge: Hello again! It's been a while since we traded letters! As for your question asking why some people dislike "trashing" so much, well, I can only speak for myself (and I speak as one who has "trashed" and may "trash" again) and that is to say that it depends on how the said "trashing" is done and for what reason! If it is in the story as a plot device and if the character grows and deepens from the experience, then, so be it. However, if the story is primarily in existence as a vehicle for the author to "trash" her favorite character, then I sometimes get a little tired, but that doesn't stop me from enjoying a well-written tale!

I suppose I'm saying that I quite like some tales which include a bit of character bashing -- and why

not? I guess it comes down to human behavior and psyche. Why do we enjoy seeing our heroes suffer? Why do we enjoy exploring the darkness within ourselves? I'm constantly fascinated by the "evil" in the human race and the reason why one human would hurt another... Is there a psychiatrist in the house?

Z. P. Florian: Re: faith and the Force. I think the "faith" aspect has to do with believing in oneself. If you do not believe you can achieve something, then usually you don't. In TESB, Luke lacked the faith in himself and the power he held when Yoda told him to lift his own ship. He couldn't do it because he didn't BELIEVE! Belief is faith.

From what Lisa Cowan has told me, the Macauley Culkin report is a rumor, though it came from the BBC!

Where did I learn so much about torture? Research! I read a couple of articles/stories in magazines written by torture victims. At the time of writing those scenes, there were a couple of documentaries on TV about torture and the effects on the victims, the guards and the torturers themselves. It was all very horrific and interesting. Many of the characters' reactions were based on those programs so I could portray them as realistically as possible -- none of this "stiff upper lip, old chap" or "don't let them hear you scream". In reality, that's not how it happens. (By the way, keep your eyes open for stories by Louise Turner -- if I can ever get her to submit anywhere. She has a novel-length tale called "The Ormand Factor" which I think would appeal to you. She's a Wedge fan, but she enjoys putting Luke through the grindstone, too!)

While I'm here, thank you for your kind words about "Missing." I'm pleased you enjoyed it and your comments meant a lot to me.

Marti: Loved your idea that Macauley Culkin could play a young Palpatine! Wicked, but wonderful!

Now for your question re Dark Jedi. You've asked me this before and I'm trying to remember how I answered it then, but this is my thoughts now: You're right; imprisonment wouldn't work and execution is of the darkside. Perhaps they let them run around freely thinking that by sheer force (sorry) of numbers, they could control them. Thus, they allowed the Dark Side to grow! Look at today's Satanists and Black Magic believers -- people laugh at them!

However, I really tend to believe they did execute Dark Siders and then tried to justify it by being all righteous. Look at how the Christians slaughtered

thousands during the Crusades in the name of Christ, just because they didn't share the same believe/faith.

While I'm here, I have to say in public how excellent your story "The Invitation" is! A definite MUST READ for Luke/Vader fans!

Maggie Nowakowska: I'll definitely be interested in reading your History of SW Fanzine Fandom -- primarily because I missed out on it all (being stuck in the Scottish backwaters) and because I do not believe British fandom can boast of such a "colorful" history. To be honest, I don't think British fandom HAS a history -- yet!

Tammy Olsen: Welcome, from one new contributor to another! I liked your assessment of the girl Luke should get/have.

Mary Jo Fox: I can understand why you'd rather NOT see another SW movie, but I don't feel the same. I AM nervous about the prospect, though!

All: Are fans becoming too hard to please? Have we become too wrapped up in our own fan fiction to accept anything Lucasfilm could give us? Many of us dislike the books, the comics don't suit us all... Just how would another film be received? Perhaps our expectations are too high?

Saying that, though, and after reading the most recent Lucasfilm magazine, I have to admit that I don't really want to see a movie about Kenobi and Anakin and what went before. I've read too many excellent stories on that subject and feel it's been done! Lucas would have to find something extraordinary to please me! See what I mean about expectations? ((Ed: *This exact thing happened with ROTJ. After TESB, SW fandom just exploded and for three years wonderful stories poured out of the imaginations of the best writers in fandom. Some were so logical and well-written that many fans said, "Yes, this must be how it will be resolved." Then, when ROTJ appeared, many fans were disappointed because the film just wasn't as good as some of the fan stories!*))

Debbie Kittle: Re *Dark Force Rising*. It was an "okay" book which was definitely better than the first - but I've read better fan stories! 'Sides, Zahn portrays Luke as a "right poltice" (Scot's slang from this area, meaning "wimp") and that sits rough with me.

A. G. Stevn: I agree with most of your comments concerning stories and editors. I don't mind editors changing my English words into American English, I don't mind them correcting my often deplorable grammar, I don't mind them making small word changes if

it helps the story. I've been lucky so far that no one has hacked into anything I've done and the editors of the zines I've contributed to have been kind. However, I do get annoyed when a sentence's meaning is changed and this has happened to me a couple of times. I *do* think editors should consult the authors if major changes are required. It should be negotiable, and the author should be the one to make the changes if she/he is willing. If not, then it's simple to withdraw a story.

It can hurt when you see a passage that you've sweated over has been altered. So editors, be kind -- we writers are sensitive beings!

Re: Owen's "There'll be hell to pay." I agree that was just his way of saying Luke'll regret not doing what he was supposed to. However, I don't agree that will mean some form of punishment. I just don't see Owen in that light, at all! As I've said before, he's a rough and gruff man -- but not a cruel man. I think Luke would just be in for a good "bawling out" as we say here! My father would often make idle threats to make us move, e.g., "If you don't tidy your room, you'll regret it." Nothing ever happens!

I see Owen as a man of deep feeling, a man who has carried a heavy burden, who has tried to act correctly for Luke's sake and he has instilled those feelings in his nephew. Luke hasn't stayed on the farm because he's under Owen's boot. He's stayed on the farm out of love and loyalty. Owen's fault here is that, to keep Luke safe, to keep the boy he loves and who he doesn't want to lose, was to USE Luke's feelings against him. Hence, the reference to the harvest. Owen is essentially saying, "We need you!" Owen is afraid of many things.

A question: Why, if Owen was a cruel, tyrannical man, is Luke so afraid when he realizes the stormtroopers are headed to the farm? Who is the first person he shouts for when he reaches the farm?

Sandi Jones: Hello, again! I'm happy to hear you're back into the writing mode! I also hope your health has improved and wish you well.

I've never seen an ANH where Luke has to make two passes at the Death Star. It sounds interesting, though! I do think I've seen a different ROTJ, though! In this one when Daddy Darth threatens Luke with turning Leia, Luke jumps out from his hiding place and swings the saber around his head, then dives for Vader. In the copies I've seen since, Luke just jumps up and dives for Dad. Anyone else seen this or were my friend and I dreaming?

Matthew Whitney: I've never seen varying differences in TESB (the movie I know has always had Han and Leia watching from an observation room, and the end dialogue) -- except one which was shown on TV. The whole Hoth scene with Leia, droids, Chewie and Rebels and the closing of the cavern doors was missing. I have a feeling the TV station cut it to fit their schedules, though, as the next time it was shown, the movie was whole. It's all very strange, though!

Tim Blaes: I assume, when you spoke of a "belted plaid", that you meant a type of tartan kilt? I've seen the "close the blast doors" scene differences -- it's more fun when the trooper replies, "Open the blast doors!"

UK version of TESB longer? Do you know in which scenes? When I visited Marti in 1986, we watched the movies together and I never noticed any differences. If you have a VCR which can take UK tapes or know someone who can convert UK to US, perhaps I could send you a copy?

Hey, I liked your thoughts on Jedi lovemaking! 'Nuff said!

Cheryl Pryor: My initials are C.M.W. -- makes more sense to write my name if you ask me!

Anne-Virginie: Mum, Dad and I thank you for the gorgeous flowers!! We all hope you enjoyed your visit with us as much as we did! Hamish (the dog) missed you after you left! I'm only sorry the Scottish weather was as cold and wet as ever! You are welcome to return any time!

I think it can be argued that Luke and Leia share a "link" which was established before birth. I believe research into twins (including fraternal twins) has shown (not proven, mind you) that there can be unexplained links between siblings, e.g., knowing if the other is hurt in some way. 'Sides, they also have the added link in the Force!

I do agree that much of a child's values, etc., comes from his/her upbringing and not necessarily from genetic links. However, speaking as one who never knew her birth parents and who was raised by foster parents, I don't think genetic roots can be dismissed. There is much about me that my parents find "alien" and which I have since discovered come from my genetic roots -- my tendency to be a dreamer and my writing are just two examples.

Tina Bentrup: You get "Morse" in the US? Wow, I'm quietly stunned! I just watched that episode with Ian McDiarmid last week when it was rerun! Did you know he was Scottish? As is Denis Lawson who

played Wedge (he was born in Perth) and Alex McCrindle who played Dodonna.

A thought before I go. Friends and I were pondering this one a couple of evenings ago: What if the Clone Wars were not a reference to a battle over cloning and its technology as we all believe, but actually a reference to a PLACE where a huge war was fought? You know, "the Clone System"? Not really a possibility, I know, but it was fun thinking about it!

Before I close, may I say that I hope your choice for a new President works out for your country and that Clinton works for you instead of against you, as our Conservative government has been doing for the past 13 years!

My apologies to Cheree for such a long letter! I tried to keep it short and missed out several items I wanted to talk about in my vain attempt at briefness! This is just so much fun, though!

High Points

Judith Yuenger
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November 9, 1992

Nine years, huh? Congratulations on not only keeping it going for that length of time but for doing such an excellent job at it. You deserve a lot more than a pat on the back! It was a lot of fun to read what was going on back then. Seemed strange to see so many zines listed as available when they are out of print now. Yes, by all means, recap what was going on in future issues. It's fun to look back.

The new MW pix were wonderful. Made me relive the whole thing all over again! And wish the next MW was a LOT sooner. Also loved the photo of Nora and Oz because we both share an interest in Arabians (I own 2). And the photo of A.G. It's nice to be able to put a face to a name.

I am assuming that everyone has read in the Lucasfilm Fan Club Newsletter the interview with

George Lucas saying that 3 new SW movies will be made and released between 1995 and the year 2000! I'm sure all of us hate waiting that long but it sure is preferable to them not coming out at all.

Has been a busy year for me and I'm sorry that I haven't written as much as I would have liked to but will try to do better in the future. Part of the problem this year was the fact that the doctors told me early in the year that my back problem is NOT going to go away and, in fact, in time, will only get worse. I don't ride my older Arabian much (he's going on 30!!) but I do ride the younger one who has a very annoying habit of spooking all the time. We discovered that my back got worse when I rode him because I stiffened all the time anticipating his spooking. I rode my friend's Quarter Horse mare and found it didn't aggravate my back at all. So, I bought a Quarter Horse gelding. My friend and I did a LOT of showing this year and I haven't done that in years, so it meant that I had to go shopping for new show clothes, do a lot more riding and since we showed out of town most of the time, it meant packing and unpacking. Most of the shows were 3 day shows so we would go a day early and come home a day later. We had a lot of fun and I enjoyed every minute of it but it is exhausting. We just attended our club's banquet and I won three High Points! Not bad on a horse that I bought right after MW!!

Cheree: I enjoyed *Dark Force Rising* more, too. In fact, I had a lot of trouble finishing *Heir to the Empire*.

Nora Mayers: Ozzie is beautiful but I want to see that photo in color! As for Pern, it's great! I belong to several Weyrs (as does Kathy Agel). Contact either of us and we can get you involved.

Z. P. Florian: Would have liked to have seen you throw yourself at Mary Urhausen's feet to do another WC. Of course, I probably would have joined you!

Marti Schuller: Thanks for the kind words. It was a lot of work but it was really nice to hear so many comments at MW that the ceremony was one of the best things they attended. Hope next year's will go as well. If you're rooming with non-smokers, come and join me on the hall floor or visit Z.P.'s room. She smokes, too!

Maggie Nowakowska: I, personally, would LOVE to read your SW Fanzine Fan History. Having gotten into SW late, there is so much that I have heard about and don't understand like the Church of Ford/Cathedral of Luke. Unfortunately, I think that one is still

around to some degree. Yes, by all means, try to get a panel on it for MW. I'll come!

Tammy Olsen: Welcome! You got to go to the Olympics? How wonderful! I had to suffice watching them on TV. If you can get away over Memorial Day weekend, come to MW -- it's great! SW is one of the biggest (if not THE biggest) contingents there.

Debbie Kittle: Glad you had a good time at MW. You were a super roomie and I loved your dolls (and I'm going to steal your blue firelizard yet!). I, too, hope that everyone will vote for the 1992 STAR aWARdS. Even if you haven't read every zine on the list, vote for what you have read. It is another way of saying "thanks" to those who have worked so hard to take you out of your mundane life for a short time.

A. G. Steyn: Now, would I be so mean as to sic Darthie on you? I have been in contact with a guy in England who has been so kind as to send me a list of all the SW fan clubs in Europe that he knows about. I got a *beautiful* zine/newsletter from Germany. Unfortunately, it is written in German and I have enough trouble with English! To be honest, I was amazed at how many clubs there are that we knew nothing about.

Sandi Jones: Welcome. You must come to MW -- I drive there and we live so close -- if you need a ride, you're more than welcome to come along with me. By the way, I was glad to take a certain Aussie Corellian off your hands -- we talked far, far into the night (and went to see *Patriot Games*).

Michelle Malkin: Will look forward to meeting you at MW.

Kathy Agel: Yeah, well, I didn't think that it would sound too good if I said you nearly knocked over the table!! Glad to hear the award is hanging (that is, if you finally tore your hubby away from the golf). He should meet my son who's a golf pro!! I know -- I know -- I SHOULD write a SW story -- I'll try; maybe not for this issue of A&E, though!

I am not going to comment on A.G.'s subject of zine editing. I am neither an editor nor a SW writer. I have only written one fiction thing and the editors of that zine went out of their way to help me make my story better. They consulted with me on every change. For me, it was a good experience. I am sure that there will be a LOT in this issue of SE regarding this subject!! Only I hope that it will turn out to be a controversy and not an all-out war!!

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

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November 19, 1992

I'm back! Did you miss me? (Never mind -- don't answer that!)

Carolyn Golledge: It is certainly true that George Lucas is not a god (none of us are perfect), but neither is he a louse, as some have suggested. As for success being a group effort, it certainly is, but when there are failures with Lucas' name attached, guess who gets blamed? Maybe it all comes out even. The people who are the *real* unsung heroes of films are all those names you see when the credits roll.

Yes, Nora Mayers, I know who Khemosabi is, as well as Count D'orsasz (whom I saw at the ripe old age of 33), Witez II, and the great Sakr. If you know of a *good* Arabian breed journal, let me know.

Marti Schuller: I loved both the Belgariad and the Malloreon. I have also read two-thirds of the Ellenium, and understood that Eddings is starting yet *another* series. I have read a lot of the Dragonlance books, but am *hopelessly* behind at this point.

What about *exile* or banishment for Dark Jedi?

Regarding *Cinefantastique*: The last straw for me was when they gave away the plot of JEDI without so much as a by-your-leave. They can write whatever they please; I don't care. Besides, they trashed both TESB and ROTJ, so why would they want more films?

The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles are excellent. Too bad they are getting bounced around because of football. Our local station is running the program at 1:30 a.m. on Sunday, unless, of course, they don't run it at all, or they run it on Saturday. Sigh... ((Ed: Does anyone have a VHS copy of the last broadcast episode, the one with 10-year-old Indy and the princess? Our local station pre-empted it for a Ross Perot infomercial! Can I trade anyone something for a copy of it?))

A. G. Stevn: Lucas (has) "got to follow his own path. No one can choose it for him." Ha, ha!

I assume everyone has seen or now owns the SW trilogy in letterbox.

Speaking for myself, I've enjoyed both SW novels. I would like to see more expression of affection between Han and Leia -- if they ever get back toge-

ther, that is! Cheree: Your daughter has a lovely smile. She needs to broaden it just a bit! My best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy holiday season. May the new year bring peace and justice for all.

My Darkling Palpatine...

Fiorenzo Delle Rupi
Casella Postale 771 AA/PP.
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Italy

Oh, my Darkling, oh my Darkling, oh my Darkling Palpatine...

Hello, everybody! Why spend the whole afternoon meditating on the *Dark Empire* comics when I can turn on the computer and plague all of you as well?

Issue six hasn't come out yet, although by the time you read this, we'll know how the end is and I will be sobbing over Palpie's (new) demise, unless Tom Veitch feels like he needs Yellow Eyes for the sequel to *Dark Empire* II, in which case I probably won't survive until summer 1993, so let's take the chance now that he's still alive and cackling.

There are almost no flaws in the comics: the story is very good, the characters are faithful (come on, admit it, Luke has never been more interesting than in this story!), and the drawings are breathtaking. There are two small faults which, however, do not bother the reader a lot. One is Boba Fett's return. I don't find it impossible, and it is mostly welcome, because Boba's end in ROTJ was just too stupid to be true. But it should at least have a function in the story! Boba pops out, he says he's alive, pursues Solo until Byss' planetary shield, where he accelerates in hope of passing through (a/k/a the red traffic light syndrome) and, of course, he remains cut out (as above). And that's all. What does it mean, what function does it have in the story??

The second is Han. As in ROTJ, he has very

little room for himself and comes out a little dumb; he is always the one that does not understand what's going on. A pity.

Good aspects, anyway, are just too much to write down. Leia's role is perfect, the cloning is intriguing, Palpie is in great shape... Wow! *Dark Empire* is so far the only story I've read 5 parts of 6 without being capable of imagining how it will end. Great!

Now, about the "clone you love to hate": Palpie is young again. What does it mean? It means a lot of things! Is the face of the young Emperor the same face we will see in the 1st trilogy? A Rutger Hauer halfway between *Blade Runner* and *Ladyhawke*, maybe? Sounds great to me, but how can Cam Kennedy know the looks of the young Emperor, I wonder?

Also, is Uncle Palpie human or not? Those green spots are a consequence of cloning, or is that the look of his particular race? But what's worse is that in the young adult series, we come to know that Palpatine has a son, Trioculus (yech, what a name)!! This is rather upsetting, because it implies that the Imperial Throne does not go to me, and also because it makes Palpatine a normal human. Hell, any ideas on who can really be my uncle??

Okay, let's go to safer (so to speak) grounds -- *Dark Force Rising*. I would place it below *Heir to the Empire*, although I admit that Zahn is working very well to make a promising third book. That's where all the loose ends are going to be tied up (hopefully) and that one promises to be very good. But DFR is a little boring. The fact is that SW is a too-fast-paced story to be told in a novel of over 350 pages. It comes out too slowly. I think that the main characters were very well depicted and, of the new ones, Thrawn and Karrde were very good. But I swore when I read that Luke had saved Mara's life at the end of the book. Couldn't we have a third book without that jittery presence walking around feeling voices in the head like Jeanne d'Arc and pestering everyone she managed to meet? I don't particularly like C'Baath, because I can't get a grip on the character, but I cheered when he started throwing boulders at Mara's ship. And, speaking of C'Baath, what do you think of the Forum scenes? (Here in Italy, there is a transmission in which a judge is called to decide about quarreling farmers, neighbors, and so on; when I read that scene, I immediately thought about it). Also, I don't very much like the way Leia manages to resolve in one single chapter all the obstacles that Thrawn had put around her. The line in which she says, "I

will leave the *Falcon* on Endor and head straight for Coruscant" was too much to believe. All in all, I find it an average story. It promises an exciting finale, but it is nothing that can be compared to *Dark Empire*.

Now, for some LoCs...

A. G. Steyn and Cheree Cargill: About the "to edit or not to edit" matter... Honestly, that's a complex problem and what I'm going to write is just the way I deal with the problem in running *Cloud City*. I am not aware of what's going on in the USA, but I did have this kind of experience over here, so I'll just offer it, without the intention of offending or siding up with anybody. Let's go.

The Force knows how much I would have liked to destr-- ahem, to correct some contributions I was sent, but, truly, I never have. There is a little voice within me that pops up and says, "You are not going to print that stuff in your zine, are you?" but there's always another that says, "Well, who are you to decide it?"

The fact is that sometimes I'd like to be something more than the guy who spends his days typing at the computer or running to the printer and to the post office. I don't want to be a censor, but I'd feel it was a duty towards my readers to guarantee that what they're reading is of a certain quality. I'd like to have people think "Ah, *Cloud City* -- they publish good stuff."

But that is *not* the right way. I have never and I will never go beyond the grammar corrections in the stories I publish.

To start that kind of talk is to start down a dangerous -- and alas, a much too crowded, at least over here -- path (well, just look what you're making me do. I'm even quoting Yoda. Yeech!). First is the story that needs a fix. Then it's that LoC that's a little too harsh. Then it's that particular author that seems always to write in a way I dislike. Then it's all a group of authors that actually follows a trend I personally don't like. Then it's a whole group of fans, then it's a whole zine or a whole fan club, then it's all the world. I, and only I, have absolute power: this is my zine and whoever enters it must accept my rules!

Believe me, I know this kind of talk much too well to go for it. There are several points that this kind of talk does not take into account.

First, the aim and the reason to do a zine. This is maybe felt more strongly in *Cloud City's* case because, aside from a zine, it is also a fan club, but I think it works for zines, too. Honestly, the only

worthy aim of a zine and the only rightful one is that of having fun.

Of course, fun is not circumvented to the editor's world (on the contrary, he is usually the one that does not have fun at all) but to the contributors and writers as well.

If a writer sends a story, unless it really stinks or unless it is openly offensive, he should have good chances of seeing it printed. Maybe it's not a masterpiece, maybe it's not that good, but the trade is: the joy of seeing someone's own work published with the uncertain result of having the reader bothered when reading that particular page. It's a very low price to pay. If I refuse or alter all works under a certain line of quality, maybe I'll have a superzine of mega tales. My ego is satisfied, but 70% of my readers/rejected contributors will not have much fun with it. Would-be writers are already doomed to know that Bantam, Ballantine, Dark Horse, West End, etc., will not even accept to read a line of theirs. They should not be reserved this treatment on zines, too.

Second, by acting as a censor, one of the most serious sins of the editor comes to light: the low opinion he has of his readers. By refusing, cutting, correcting a (relatively) average story, the editor thinks, "They are not capable of telling a good story from a bad one. I must choose for them." This is the worst offense an editor can do to his readers. Sometimes I will receive contributions so disgusting that can't be reasonably printed. In that case, I will say to the author, "Look, the matter is that X and Y are much too wrong and cannot possibly go well." In 70% of cases, the involved person will say, "Yeah, you're right. I will rewrite it." In 25% of the cases, he/she will answer, "Sorry, but that's an integral part of my idea and must remain that way" (in this case, I will publish the thing as it is, reserving myself the pleasure of saying, "Well, I did warn you"). And in 5% of cases, the person will no longer want to have his contribution appear because he feels insulted, he intends to rewrite everything from the start or he intends to send it to someone else. Very well, this is a free country. But if you have no choice between publishing the story/artwork/review/club advertisement as it is or refusing it, go ahead and publish it. Readers are not stupid and will notice it; they will send LoCs saying, "Hey, that was junk." They certainly won't send letters saying, "Hey, you editor, why did you allow that stuff to appear?" I assure you, readers will never encourage the editor along that

way! And, even in that case, I prefer being accused of lack of vision instead of censorship.

Third, and most important, this might come as a shock to someone, but editors aren't always right. True, we've read more stories than the contributor, true, we've a better experience in these things, but this cannot beget that our idea is better than his. To my surprise (and dismay), I have more than once reluctantly published something I thought would stink and then found out that it was what readers enjoyed most, and so there have been contributions I considered masterpieces that turned out to be failures according to my readers' tastes. But thank the Maker it is so! If I had to publish only what I like, I would get a zine in which even Artoo and Threepio turn to the Dark Side, Palpatine reigns unchallenged over this, and several other galaxies, and a chemical weapon has provoked the extinction of all the Ewoks in the universe. Once again, the only judgment that counts is that of the public, and you can't foresee it, no matter how experienced you are.

But from what I understand, the heart of the problem concerns changes made without the author's permission. Well, after all this you will understand that this is pure violence over someone's ideas. If I really think that that sentence/paragraph/idea is wrong and must not appear (and after all that we have said I shouldn't), well, then I don't publish it, but publishing it altered without asking the author is criminal. That's putting in the mouth of the author words and ideas he has never meant to express. Very often, he meant to express the precise opposite idea. Why, if this is right, then in the next issue of CC, there are gonna be tons of LoCs singing choruses of glory to my person, cheering my works and congratulating my activities, no matter what the authors truly sent.

Honestly, I see the matter on this point quite obvious, and I don't even think there should be need to discuss it, so maybe I'm missing some details I should know. In this case, please, fill in the blank.

Carolyn Golledge: Hi! Is everything well over there? Here things have improved a little, hope they proceed well for you, too. Thanks also for your words of praise about our work; they are always good to hear once in a while.

Well, well, it looks like you're another Mara Jade fan, huh? Glad to hear that. What I really wish to know after this is: Is there anybody who can stand that obnoxious paranoid? If yes, can you please explain why to us? Maybe we're missing something

and she has some hidden (very, very, very hidden) qualities. The Right Hand of the Emperor... Ha! Imagine Uncle Palpie discussing some secret plan with her. "You will go and kill that Admiral. He's a traitor." "Yes, Your Majesty." Change scene, Mara with the Admiral. "Yes, I hate you, blah, blah, blah, I must kill you, blah, blah, blah. I had the order to kill you from the Emperor himself who blah blah blah and so I now will kill you blah blah blah because that's the will of my Master blah blah blah (ten minutes), say, did you know you're very attractive?"

Lisa Cowan: You didn't miss anything!

Z. P. Florian: About Luke getting a girl. I think you made a very good point. Who can measure up with Leia? That's it, not because of any particular qualities of Leia, but because of the other factors you mentioned, that is, Luke's fast growth. Whatever woman you put next to him cannot fit well because it will always have to be some new character. On the contrary, there should be someone next to him that has gone through his growth along with him and Leia was the only one to fit the place. Any other woman who's going to pop out after ROTJ to get Luke will always carry a writing on her T-shirt, "I am the girl for

Luke" from the beginning. It would have been easier if there had been someone else in the trilogy who took part in the events. Er, maybe a passionate story about Mon Mothma?

Debbie Kittle (and everybody): Is it commonly accepted that Vader and Tarkin did not like each other? I have always thought they worked very well together; with nobody else, not even the Emperor, Vader discusses which is the best course of action. They exchange ideas and they do not seem too uneasy in each other's presence. Maybe I'm just imagining things but I've always thought that Vader esteemed Tarkin very much. Anyone agree?

Cheryl Pryor: Hey, come on, be kind towards old people! It was since issue 2 of *Dark Empire* that Palpie had come back and he had never had a cover! It was about time!

Before leaving, is anyone over there into Marvel comics? Does anyone think that Doctor Doom is Vader's twin brother? And that Loki would be a perfect young Emperor?

Okay, time to go. May I include *Cloud City's* last year Christmas card here, Cheree?



Ming Wathne
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November 21, 1992

Hey, I'm back! What do you mean you didn't miss me? I'm devastated! Oh, well. I have managed to misplace just about everything in the Library and my work room. I *really* do not suggest to anyone that they have 2 computer failures, 2 printer failures and a copy failure and a phone cut off in one 5 month period. It really does tend to upset a schedule and drive one into irreversible depression, but if the Force is with me, I am finally crawling out of the mess -- just in time to get involved in the author vs. editor fun.

For old hands in SW, this is not the first time this has occurred, but as it is probably new to many fans, I do think it needs to be discussed. So, Point A, Steyn is right, and Point A, *Cheree is right*. No, I did not mean Point 1 and 2 or Point A and B. Because depending on where you stand, they both have very valid things to say and, as both an editor and an author, I can recognize the frustration on both sides, but perhaps in this there is a third party that needs to be recognized and it is that third party that in the long run dictates what an editor will print and therefore what will be acceptable from an author. That third party is the reader!

Now, as 90% of the editors have outlines of what they want, the authors should have no complaint if they center a story around Z when all the editor wants are stories centered around X and C, or alternate universe, or women only, or anything else of this type. If you as an author do not want to write such stories, do not send them to that particular editor.

Like the authors, the editors (even if they try to be objective) have certain biases. They also have individual ways of handling editing.

The first words on my editing outline are "all material is subject to edit". The amount of editing done will depend on the story and the ability of the author. There are perhaps 5 or 6 authors who never need editing in any way, others than need merely suggestions for deleting or additions, and others who need to do complete rewrites.

It is the editor's *job* to make decisions like that. How closely the editors and authors work together seems to be the key. Some editors just take the bit and run and, if they get a good product that way, that

is the way they will do it. Others work more closely with the authors on changes and restructures. And sometimes no matter how hard they try, one combination cannot make a story work. This has nothing to do with the quality of the story. It simply involves the human differences in people. With another editor, the author would find the same story working fine.

I would say the bottom line in things like this is for authors to try and know your editors and how they work, and for editors to try and know your authors and how they feel about changes, etc., in their work.

In *Bright Center* in just 3 issues, I have had to turn back 2 stories, not because the stories were bad, but I could not make them work. There were elements in the stories that were important to the authors but I could not get the elements to gel. Other editors did. I have made suggestions on another couple of stories, some of which were accepted. Where there is a difference of opinion, I am very careful to examine the situation. If I can work with it, fine; if not, I will return the story.

Below the bottom line is the fact that in fanzines, most materials are the hard work of imaginative authors, artists, poets, and puzzle makers, but the editor is responsible for getting these materials together and presenting them to the public and standing the expense of putting out the zine. The reading fans will decide if the zine is worth the price they will be asked to pay.

So, it is necessary for all sides to decide what the final purpose of this creative product is, and what needs to be done to make it saleable.

Enough. Now to other things.

C. Golledge: Yeah, lady, I agree with you on the Lucas as god. The man was brilliant on promoting SW, then he just left it to others to carry the ball. Nowhere is this more evident than in the Lucasfilm Fan Club zine #17. The interview supposedly focused on SW but had only about three paragraphs on SW. The rest was on his other projects and the Young Indy series. So, I agree with you all the way.

Nora Mayers: Okay, lady, I want to read that SW novel when you get it out. October '92, right? And, as for Indy (Old, that is), yep, charming and that is it. Except where he used his cane in the episode with the smart-mouthed counter brat. I can't find the Indy I know anywhere.

Z. P. Florian: About the only thing we seem to know about spice is that it is mined (C3PO's reference to the spice mines of Kessel). Hey! Ming said-- Just

because I twist other people's arms to have them do things (talk to Judy about that), but I do think it is a great idea. Show the rest of fandom what you girls can do.

Can't agree with you that Owen slapped Luke around or that Beru was scared of him. Beru struck me more as the type of woman my Grandma was said to be, very quiet and shy, until she would say, "We will do this!" As I understand, it was very quiet, but it was also done. I believe Luke is much the same.

Maggie N.: Yes, we need someone to resurrect and record the old info on the early zines. I am all for it and, if I can help, let me know.

Tammy Olson: Keep up the letters and make it to MediaWest as soon as you can. It is great.

Mary Jo Fox: Gothic Girl. I love it and join the group. Ben -- Machiavellian -- I have always felt both he and Yoda were between a rock and a hard place. The only one they had to send up against Vader happened to be Vader's son, so what do you do? I think one of the problems in SW is we want the Alliance and the New Republic to be Good. We forget that good has different meanings to different people. Is the greater good always the best for individuals? Was Kenobi bad because he wanted to use the only weapon available to defeat Vader? Was Luke ever to know Vader was his father? Or, did Kenobi think Luke would never find out, and would he have found out if Vader had not told him? A lot of food for thought here.

Debbie Kittle: Well, the Lucas interview turned out to be a bust. As for the comics, very nice. I was especially interested in the reissue of the comics that were originally in the newspapers, only now done in color. And thanks for info on the Hamilton plates. Somehow, they have my name on the list for info on the Teddy bears and 1890 stuff and not for the space things, so they have now received a nice little note about not sending me info on these things. I was really pissed.

Sandi Jones: Welcome back to SW fandom.

Matthew Whitney: Like your view that Vader knew how Leia would act on the Death Star. He at least never seemed to underrate the enemy. He must have known her as a senator or, at least known of her, and how she was likely to react.

Michelle Malkin: Well, sex in SW. Surprise! It is not, and I mean *not*, easy to write without making it either mushy or "Ok, I'll take you to dinner and we will have sex." Most sex on television is about as

romantic as stale bread, a convenience for lack of other action, and writing it can be difficult to get the true feel without mush, violence or convenient boredom.

Tim Blaes: Well, perhaps to some Michael Keaton was a good Batman. We all have our own ideas and I, for one, do not think so.

Kathy Age! Apologies for not getting a story to you for your new zine, but with the trouble on my office equipment, I was lucky to keep the Library going and get BC#3 back on schedule or almost, but will see you at Revelcon anyway.

Cheryl Pryor: Gauntlets! Okay, black breathing mask and cape. No, you are not Dorthy (Dorthy -- giggle giggle -- that is great).

Anne-Virginie Dutech: Stop worrying with the English bit. Get a bit of help and away you go. One thing about English, you can -- if you use your imagination -- break about every rule in the book and still have an understandable story. It is great to try for perfection but, if you have a well-thought out story, that is the bottom line.

Tina Bentrup: Well, I am with the majority about Sebastian Shaw, a position I seldom find myself in. The man simply did not live up to the roll.

Sorry, Cheree, but I had to try and make up for two, or is it three, issues. Force knows when I will get to LoC again. Til next time--



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November 16, 1992

Hello, people of the Southern Enclave. This is a new voice.

Allow me to introduce myself: I'm a new fan and a new author.

I'd never written to a fanzine (or for that matter read one) before 1988. After a lifetime of "serious" Science Fiction reading and disdain for "space opera", I discovered the SW trilogy in October 1985 and have never recovered. I started corresponding with penpals in 1987 and writing poetry and short stories in 1989.

And now, for the first time ever, SE comes in and I discover there's this mass of people who have known each other forever, commenting on other comments, back and forth on the subjects that have been on my mind for such a long time.

It's very encouraging, as for the longest time I had thought I was crazy. I *had* known there were others like me, my penpals for instance, but it is still different to find such a great number of people whose main interest, even passion, is SW. People who go through job changes and hardships, with illness and deaths in the family, moving, traveling ... and who are concerned, as I am, with Darth Vader and Obi-Wan Kenobi; with Luke and Leia; with the Emperor and with Han Solo... Turns out I'm not alone.

Year before last, when the SCUDS flew here, I was in the middle of two SW stories: "Shore Leave" and "One Night on Endor". And, yes, for two weeks I was petrified, especially wearing my gas mask and giving comfort through it -- on the phone -- to a pregnant woman ... but as soon as the war was over, I resumed work on the stories.

It was at that time that I came to the conclusion that, as the French poet put it: "L'Important c'est la Rose" -- What matters is the Rose. When situations are unbearable, when Things Happen that bring you down and out, when life is full of shit -- what matters, really, is beauty, and ideas, and art, and the Spirit. It's the Rose that matters.

We have our own Rose. Not just me, but a great many others out there. And I can only say: Thank the Force!

That said, and while I still know too little about

the different viewpoints of all the fans to have a discussion with any of them, I'd like to state my position -- so that if there's someone who thinks like me, she or he can get in touch. And the others can jump on me...

First that SW is, to me, a unique experience. Three motion pictures, a work of art, that is simultaneously fiction and fact; of which I know in all details how it was conceived, produced and finished on Planet Earth, yet that has its *real* reality in another Galaxy, far, far away, where it exists as both history and scripture (something like our own Bible). Where it *happened*, and where, presumably, the inhabitants have recorded it, and fictionalized it, and made it their scripture.

Then that, as far as I'm concerned, *only what we see is real* in that Galaxy far, far away: The Story, the mythical, scriptural, Story *is the three movies, and nothing else*. All the rest, everything written about and around SW, even the novelizations authorized by George Lucas and the new books written to make money, are, in the *real* reality, interpretations by scribes, done maybe centuries after the fact. The Apocrypha to the Bible, so to speak.

For the SW trilogy is a parable. A morality play -- a passion play. If, on one level, it is a glorious space opera, action-adventure in incredibly imaginative settings (and that's all it is, for many a fan!) on another level it's a religious teaching: about the Force and about Good and Evil being two sides of one coin, about Choice and about Power; Yoda and Obi-Wan Kenobi are not just the sort of Gurus we know on Earth, but Teachers of the Force, in the Force. And what is that, really? We don't know, we live on Earth, our own religions are different, even if we, too, deal with good and evil and the consequences of our actions. But what we mostly deal with are reward and punishment, the afterlife, and god. Not with the extrasensory and the paranormal, as the ingredients of religion. And Choice and Change and the use of Power are very seldom part of tenets we hold, or even know about. One of the most consistent characteristics of Earthly religions is relation and obedience to a god or gods, something that does not exist in the Force religion.

If only the three movies are Reality, and if we discard the earthbound explanations and interpretations of all those peripheral scribes ("Luke felt...", "Leia thought..." -- Gimme a break!), there remains nothing but trying to fathom by ourselves why they do

what they do: what Luke goes through as he discovers his father, as he grows into a Jedi; what Leia is feeling under physical or mental torture and infinite loss -- and the burden of command; what Obi-Wan Kenobi's considerations actually are, in his quest for freeing the Galaxy from the Emperor and Vader -- and what happens to Vader inside, when he meets his son, why his Return as Anakin is triggered.

We ask ourselves: Why would they say this, do that? Some things seem self-evident -- Luke's scream when Vader tells him the truth; Leia's: "somehow I've always known"; Han's "I know". But other reactions are by no means so obvious. Because they're the reactions of people vastly different from us.

We find ourselves puzzled (and I've seen some fans looking for the most bizarre explanations -- such as insanity!) by Obi-Wan's lies to a Luke he obviously loves; by Vader's obsession; by Luke giving himself up to the Ewoks; by Leia never crying -- except once; by Lando's turn-around after betrayal. But we are puzzled only if we look at those outsize Players through the eyes of our own planet's experiences, our Earth-sized psychologies and philosophies. If we could put ourselves in their place, to perceive their different wisdom and powerful emotions, we might understand.

For the people of the Saga are not like the ordinary humans we know, farmers and soldiers, pilots and teachers. Even Dictators and Nazis. Just as the Jedi are not the Templars and the Force religion is not Zen Buddhism, so the SW people are not like you and me.

The people of the Saga have greater strength of character, more intelligence, their emotions are more powerful. They're physically stronger and more resistant. They have the Force, whether they feel it or not. Those who do feel it, have a whole different pool of resources inside to draw on, even the Dark Ones. It is quite impossible to apply to them the yardsticks we use in ordinary life, the yardsticks of Earthly psychological theory, or Judeo-Christian morality.

How would it feel to be inside their skin? Be a telepath, an empath -- someone who feels the Force? Someone whose emotions are so powerful -- yet so much under control? That's what I've been trying to do, that has been my way of exploring SW: getting inside them, to feel with them and discover how they are affected by those emotions -- and by the Force, for their reactions and their lives. It has given me the impulse for writing my poetry and my fiction. I've been trying, but I'm not so sure, succeeding. For I'm

of Earth -- so all I can do is use my imagination.

But I sure would like to see this kind of thing in other fans' fiction, too!

Thanks for your attention. May the Force be with You.

Unfearing Editors

Matthew Whitney
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November 18, 1992

On the editor/fan writer relationship, I have no "horror stories" to share. By and large I got along quite well with every editor who I submitted to. Sure, a toe got stepped on here and there (of both parties), but nothing serious. Well, at least I don't trade letter bombs with anyone.

Responding to A. G. Steyn's question, "Where are the unfearing editors willing to publish such boldness?" I am reminded of the stories you hear coming out of Hollywood where a director/writer fumes that the studio/network has compromised the artist's creative freedom. I'm an anti-censorship as the next liberal, but it's the studio/network's millions that the artist is gambling. If these artists want creative freedom, no one is stopping them from bank-rolling it themselves. In our (hopefully) happy world of zines, if an author wants to publish bold fiction that eds balk at or threaten to cut or alter, then the author can still pull their submission.

I do believe no one must put up with edits they don't agree with, but neither should they feel an editor has any obligation to print anything they don't wish to (no matter what the reason). I hold editors in high regard for providing a forum that I have neither the talent nor energy to match. If not for them, none of my fiction would have had any readership beyond a few of my closest personal friends.

If a fan has something editors want to change or won't print at all, then another editor could be sought, or if all else fails, they could always print their own

zine. No one is stopping that (are they?).

Carolyn Gollledge brought up a meaty topic: How much credit does Lucas deserve for the Saga? ANH was surely his baby, but even that got input from others. 3PO was supposed to be a "used car salesman" type until Anthony Daniels made him a nervous English butler. And the human characters were certainly shaped by the casting of those particular actors. But Lucas is the one who ultimately approved their being cast. If he hadn't liked what he saw, I'm sure he'd have nixed it.

TESB definitely is the furthest from GL's vision, and I believe he's said this himself in print. It was the one he was the least involved in the day-to-day filming of. Leigh Brackett? I've heard her draft of the script was a very early rough draft, with little ending up in the final version. Kasdan was really starting from a bare bones plot. That's not to say Brackett couldn't have produced an even better script had she lived to finish it. We'll never know. As for what GL's complaints with TESB are, who knows? Many fans consider it the best.

His displeasure (minor?) with aspects of the production led him to choose Marquand and to be on hand much more for ROTJ. The way I read all the articles about that film was that Marquand's job was to try and fit the film as closely to GL's design as possible, even at the sacrifice of what he may want to do himself. He was undoubtedly hired because he and Lucas saw eye-to-eye. Lucas didn't want someone bucking against him, and I'm sure Marquand wouldn't have signed aboard if he didn't feel comfortable with the relationship. It's not swallowing your pride if you agree with the guy giving you instructions.

With the above said, I can see people questioning GL if you are in the opinion that the genius of SW lies in TESB. For me, ROTJ works. It's the Saga I love, not pieces only. How much of TESB is GL's vision? My gut says the film, as shot by Kershner, came out darker than GL had planned. But as we never heard him rant 'n' rave that Kersh had ruined his film, I bet it's only a matter of a small degree. More of a surprise than upset. But, as I think GL doesn't like to let go of too much control, I guess he just wanted to insure there'd be no surprises at all in ROTJ.

What is spice? I just hope it's not a drug. Han as a dope dealer shatters my dreams of these guys as heroes. *Blake's 7* tap danced around this by making all the original crew criminals, but not very vicious

ones (and angels next to the real baddies, the Federation). Spice? Maybe it's an ingredient in air purification systems. All spacecraft would have to recycle oxygen, and maybe the spice is used in purifying air. Why illegal? Maybe they're bypassing Imperial monopolies? (The classic case of salt-making in India, as dramatized by Ghandi, comes to mind.)

What did the Jedi do when someone was falling toward the Dark Side? Could they strip that knight of his/her Force potential? How about banishing the stripped away Dark aspects of the Force to some certain place for safe keeping? That place would have to be way off the beaten path so no one could stumble upon it and tap it. It would also need a guardian. You can guess what I'm getting at ... Dagobah and the Tree! It's up to you, gang, to decide if any of this makes sense. Is there anything tangible to the Force (Light or Dark) that could be taken from a Jedi? Are there Darkside germs? Can someone be made Force-neutral?

Kathy Age! Thanks for the McCaffrey news (of a Pern shipfish novel and a short story collection ... TERRIFIC!). On the topic of collaborations between authors, let me shamelessly plug the Katherine Kurtz/Deborah Turner Harris *Adept* series. They focus on a group of occultists in modern Scotland who are a sort of realistic "ghostbusters". (No Bill Murray characters, these aren't comedies.) Very nice stuff, and from what I gather, these are *collaborations*, not what Arthur C. Clarke and Gentry Lee are doing.

Anne-Virginie Dutech: Great introductory Loc ... for I seem to agree with 99% of what you said. (Big difference in our opinions of Obi-Wan. What's up? Am I the only one who came out of ANH as a Kenobi fan?) Re: Palpatine and Vader overlooking Leia/the limitation of the Force being an inability to "conceive or imagine something." A good idea there! It reminds me of Tolkein and the Palantiri. Denethor saw death and ruin because that's what he expected to see and had not the ability to wrest control from Sauron. Palpatine and Vader sensed the latent Force potential in Leia but did not extrapolate from there. They sensed Luke's strength, too, and sought to make a Darksider of him, but if they imagined he'd reject their offers, then they arrogantly assumed they'd be able to kill him if he turned against them (thus contradicting their opinion of his strength). I bet Luke's attempt at suicide in TESB was viewed as a sign of weakness and may have lulled Palpatine into false security.

Re: Anakin's "puffy" appearance (that some fans object to). It didn't strike me as the paunch of an old, sedentary man. Rather, I thought of how nasty your feet can get after a long day in sweaty, non-porous snow boots. Yuck! Or maybe early NASA space suits where the guys were sealed in for several days. Talk about ripe! That's my image of Vader. He's too obsessed with carrying out bad guy business to worry about showering regularly. His body is physically strong, but otherwise unkept. Nor do I see him sitting down to sumptuous meals. Just inject him with some nutritional supplement, and he's back to lightsaber practice. A date with Darthie would probably not be a "hot night on the town". Agreeing with Tina Ben-trup, spare me the Humpty-Dumpties. IMO, Anakin's appearance seemed appropriate, and with his eyes being soft, blue and pitiful ... well, it worked for me.

The pet people among us may be heartened to know we adopted a stray kitten who'd been hanging around the neighborhood. We'd not approached it at first (unsure if it was a neighbor's pet who was allowed to roam), but when we saw it limping on what turned out to be a broken foreleg, well, we just had to save the poor thing! After snaring her, we had the SPCA check her for communicable diseases, we gave them the OK to mend the leg and spay her. She's completely overcome her people-shyness (at least to us, strangers still scare her) and has become an ideal, loving little sweetie. Her coloring is jet black and I named her "Lucky" in contrast, 'cause for a black cat she sure was lucky to find us. I'd toyed with giving her a fannish name, but didn't think my folks would be able to cope with that.

Within a week, I'll be taking that big bird to Chicago for VISIONS. Wish this nervous flyer safe "skywalking", will ya? Take care, all. MTFBWY.



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Greetings, Rebel boys and girls, and other assorted technopagans! Was 1992 one long orgasmic experience or what?! I think it's been the best year for SW fans since 1983. I truly feel that the '90s will be ours.

Other Realms: At this moment (early Nov.), I'm rejoicing at the release of the fifth book of the Hitchhikers's "Trilogy" (thank the Force!) and the fourth book in Anne Rice's Vampire Chronicles. I waited at a bookstore three hours in order to beat the crowds when Ms. Rice came for a book signing. It was fun and definitely worth it, since I was one of the first to get my book autographed. Reading about ol' Lestat and Co. always makes me wonder what would happen if someone with Force powers were to become a vampire. Would he or she automatically become a Darksider? How would vampire and Force powers work with each other? How would other Jedi deal with such a vampire? It would make a great story...

Re the Jedi and Sex: A popular topic, no doubt! Tim, have you read Nussman & Taero's "For Better or Worse" in *Tremor* #6? This story sort of addresses your question. In it, Leia describes her experience as "(interesting) ... and more." Han must be one happy guy. Anyway, that leads me to my own question from last time. I say you could make a good case either way. Alderaan was a sophisticated, progressive society, so perhaps Leia got to experiment a bit in her adolescence. Sure, she might be a princess with high visibility and all, but look at the royals decorating the weekly scandal sheets on our planet. I'm not saying she would be as bad as, say, Fergie or Princess Stephanie, but still. On the other hand, Leia may have been too wrapped up in her duties in the Senate and the rebellion to bother with boys. Also, most guys were probably intimidated by her demeanor and her power. That's why I think she was impressed with Han. He was the only one who didn't put her on a pedestal. Anyway, I wonder why people think the Jedi are celibate. What about Anakin and Leia? And how do we know Luke, Ben, and Yoda didn't keep company (at least at some point in their lives)? As for the lack of good sex in fanfic, I promise to help rectify that situation in the future (tee hee). But in the meantime, I recommend *Chronicles of the House of*

Alderaan. It's got lots of sex and romance, tastefully done (even Luke gets lucky!).

Boba Fett Sightings: I knew as far back as 1990 that our favorite bounty hunter was still alive. While I was working as a DJ at the University of Missouri's radio station, I came across a 12" single by an industrial band called Ajax. The song was produced by "Bobba (sic) Fett." "Aha!" I thought. "He's been working as a record producer all along, and he added that extra 'b' as a way to toss us off his trail!" Furthermore, I have proof that Mr. Fett lives in the Washington-Baltimore area. I was listening to the radio one night in September when a man identifying himself as Boba Fett called in to request "Melt With You" by Modern English. At least he has good taste in music!

Z. P. Florian: How goes it in Falls Church? Mara a "Mary Sue"? Sure, she's a wench, but that's better than a weepy, wimpy chick. As I confessed before, I really liked DFR. I had to force myself to keep from reading it all in one sitting. I'm *really* looking forward to part 3 (but if Zahn doesn't show the twins' birth, I'll kill him). The cover art wasn't *that* bad! If you want to see some bad art, check out the illos in the *Heir to the Empire* sourcebook. My lovelies look like mutants! In one picture, it looks as if Leia is wearing big false eyelashes. Since when did she join the B-52's? But you are right about Dark Empire. It's incredible! Thank the Maker the same team will do a second series that will come out mid-'93!

Carolyn: Yes, you are right that we cannot forget that others contributed to the saga. ROTJ toy-oriented? I know not everybody liked the Ewoks, but it's still a wonderful flick! I refuse to feel guilty, darn it! Don't worry about anything permanent between Mara and Luke. She's not in the comics series, not even a mention. Luke is *not* a depressive! Why do people assume he shuffles around staring at his shoes as he mumbles, "Life sucks, man"? He might be quiet, unassuming, wistful, or even a bit eccentric, but, geez, he's not miserable! Yes, *Regarding Henry* was lame.

Marti: There have been many times when my fan enthusiasm has waxed and waned. I can chart this phenomenon in my own life this way. When ANH came out, I had SW fever big time from 1977 to about late 1979. Then it flared up again when TESB came out, and then it cooled off the second I started that emotional hell known as puberty. It came back around Fall 1982 and lasted until the end of 1983. The mid-80's (1984-1987), I think, were truly a sucky

time to be a SW fan. For one thing the big anti-SW backlash got underway the nanosecond ROTJ was unleashed, and that lasted until about 1987-88. Secondly, nobody knew if there were going to be new movies, so folks were already writing obits on the saga. Then there was the 10th anniversary in 1987 when we learned that we *may* get new movies, which I guess was the spark that rekindled the fire. That, and the new roleplaying game, put me on a SW high well into 1988. Things sort of stayed at a level until last year, when *Heir* came out and did well. "Yay!" I thought. "People besides me still care!" 1992, though, has been sheer heaven. With all of the great SW stuff that has come out along with my entry into fandom. I'm madly in love again. You know, I feel like I've been in a 15-year marriage or something.

Maggie: Your Palpatine/Hitler comparison was positively chilling!

Tammy: I hope you liked Barcelona. I was there in '85, back when Spain was a cheap country to visit. The Gothic Quarter and Gaudi's architecture rule! As for getting the comic books, you could (1) order them from a comic book store (the ones around here will let you do that anyway), (2) get something like "Advance Comics" and order them for yourself, and (3) contact a subscription service.

Catriona: Don't be discouraged in writing Luke romances or putting female characters in your stories! I may be a Han fan, but I like seeing the kid have a little fun, too!

Debbie: The kiddie books do indeed have good artwork (I love the cover of *Zorba the Hutt's Revenge*), but despite some nice parts, the stories are total Velveeta (i.e., cheese). Why do the authors tell us 9000 times that Han is a "Corellian bachelor"? Why do they have him leave Leia behind to build a hacienda after we see in ROTJ that the poor guy's heart was about to shatter when he thought he had to give her over to Luke? It makes no sense! The Sci-Fi Channel is a godsend. The people behind it have my eternal gratitude for bringing back many of the shows I grew up with.

A.G.: I'm with you for more adventurous fanfic. The stuff I've written so far has, I think, remained true to the spirit of the Saga, but I try to put in a unique twist everytime. For example, I'm working on a story in which Leia confronts her own dark nature and her feelings about Daddy. However, I must disagree with some of your comments about GL. I don't think he's afraid of the fans or that he's contemptuous

of them. Being a shy person myself, I realize not everyone is comfy being with "the people". He's just not a 1-man PR machine like Roddenberry was. It's a bit like saying other bands don't care about their fans because they don't let people tape their live shows the way the Grateful Dead does.

Sandi (and everybody else): After watching TESB and ROTJ several times on HBO in October, I've changed my mind about Vader knowing who Leia was. Now I think he might have (a) felt tracings of the Force in her and got curious, therefore, not eliminating her when he had several opportunities to do so; and/or (b) she reminded him of her mum (a/k/a Mrs. Skywalker). I no longer think that he knew she was his daughter. Your fantasy is not weird -- I'd do the same thing! Just leave the files there when you're done, okay?

Matthew: Elvis is everywhere. I did see the longer version of TESB back in 1980 in the theaters, which was about 2 weeks after it came out. I have not seen that version since.

Michelle: The reason why Palpatine looks so god-awful is that the Dark Side has been destroying his flesh, much in the same way it has been destroying his soul. I love bad movies, too! My faves include: *Plan 9 From Outer Space*, *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes*, *Hamburger: The Motion Picture*, *Satan's Cheerleaders*, and *Robot Monster*. *They Saved Hitler's Brain* is a laugh riot -- all Der Führer has to say is "Mach Schnell!" and the whole cast changes about halfway through the film!

Tim: Yes! I've seen that "open the blast doors/close the blast doors" version of ANH several times. In fact, my brother and I quote those lines all of the time. I would *love* to see any extended version of the movies!

Cheryl: Yes, Eastern fans rule! I'm glad to join the ranks.

Anne-Virginie: Comment allez-vous? That is one of the few phrases I remember from French class. So, you're from Catalonia? My ancestral roots are from that very part of France (and Spain as well, with a few crazy Basques and Gypsies thrown in). Studying in England sounds like fun. I hope you're enjoying it. Yes, you have misjudged poor ol' Ben. He may be a Jedi Master, but screwing up doesn't make him a terrible person. He's still only human. You do have an excellent point about Leia using Darkside powers. Being a politician, she would see more shades of gray, I think, than Luke would. And, she would be much,

much more difficult for Vader and Palpatine to control. No wonder they put all of their efforts into sharing Luke instead. Re Han's background: I've always suspected that he was a bored child of the suburbs who turned to the military, and eventually smuggling, as a way to escape the utter mundaneness of his surroundings. True, it's not as romantic as his being, say, the abandoned child of a whore and a wild young nobleman, but it's as good a theory as any.

Tina: I had the funniest vision of Darth Vader retreating to his mediation chamber to pig out on Ho-Ho's after I read the line "he was secretly snacking in there for all those years" in your Loc.

Well, in case you are bored and would like to read something entertaining, I recommend *Life Force* by Leo F. Ludzia (\$3.95, published by those neo-pagan darlings, Llewellyn Publications). It explores the nature of the "life force" and how you too can harness it. Some of it's interesting and some of it's hooey, but it makes several references to the SW saga. It's also got great meditation techniques. Available at a new age bookstore near you. I also recommend *George Lucas: The Creative Impulse* by Charles Champlin (Harry N. Abrams, Inc., \$39.95) -- it's a nice, classy coffee table book on everything GL has been associated with from his student films to *Young Indy*.

Until the spring equinox, take care of yourselves, wear a towel, and, above all, don't panic!

P.S. Lisa, thanks for everything!

First Letter

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November 14, 1992

Hi, everyone. This is my first letter to SE although I've been a SW fan since late '77 when I first read the novel. We didn't get the movie until January '78 and it fully lived up to my expectations. Even back then it was a mystery to me why all the reviews praised the effects and ignored or criticized the plot and acting. SW is primarily a fantastic story. It's

without a doubt the greatest adventure story I've ever read or seen. For me, the saga has never been about great visuals or weird aliens (although I love those elements, too), it's about Luke Skywalker, who's a wonderful character. Now I knew the story was good because I'd read the novel but Luke's character relies mainly on the talents of the actor portraying him. Mark Hamill does a consistently excellent job in all three movies.

TESB was a real blast. I hadn't read the novel this time so all its surprises hit me full in the face. I was amazed and overjoyed that Lucas had taken so many risks. For the next three years, I anticipated ROTJ. I figured that Lucas would provide us with something even more amazing. After all, he was now in a position to do whatever he wanted. The studio wouldn't dare interfere. Unfortunately, ROTJ wasn't everything I expected it to be. In many ways it's the sort of sequel I would've expected 20th Century Fox to come up with. However, I must say that despite all my reservations about ROTJ, I do enjoy watching it. There's loads of good stuff and in the most important respect (that being the resolution of the conflict between Luke and Vader), I was more pleased that I ever thought possible.

My involvement in SW fandom didn't really begin until the early '80's. Actually, I was a member of the OSWFC from mid-'78 and that was very frustrating. They'd always send the newsletters by surface and often 2 issues at a time, which meant any info was at least 6 months old. Sometimes they wouldn't bother sending an issue and then they'd send another copy of one I'd already received. After a couple of years of this, I wrote a long letter of complaint to them. They sent back a form letter which basically said, "We're glad you like the club"!

After that, I started writing to SW penpals in the States and I got a couple of fanzines, one of which was an issue of *Skywalker*. I was amazed! Why didn't the official fan club do stuff like this? I started doing SW illos for zines here and in the States.

Then came the Ewok movie and that really depressed me, then the Ewok cartoons and that depressed me even more, then the Ewok comic and that *really, really* depressed me. And then another Ewok movie... Well, you get the picture. It seemed that Lucas was never going to take us back to that galaxy far, far away. So, around '87, I stopped writing to most of my penpals (or they stopped writing to me) and I stopped doing SW artwork. It seemed that SW

fans were dying out.

Then a couple or 3 years ago, I heard about a British SW fanzine, *Telesponder*, and I contacted them and found out that there were still plenty of SW fans around and I learned about new zines in Europe and the U.S., and so I started doing artwork and articles and even stories. This past year has seen a big resurgence in SW popularity.

I must agree with Z. P. Florian's reviews in SE#33. I thought *Heir to the Empire* was pretty boring and consequently haven't bought *Dark Force Rising*. However, *Dark Empire* is very good. The artwork is fantastic. I haven't read #6 yet but I hope it resolves things in a satisfactory manner.

I've also been enjoying the "Classic Star Wars" comics. The stories aren't that interesting but that's understandable, considering the restrictions Archie Goodwin had to work to. Al Williamson's art is great and the coloring is beautiful. Dark Horse Comics is doing a great job.

Young Readers SW Books: Yes, well, er... The covers by Drew Struzan are very good, much better than those provided for the two Zahn novels. The stories are kind of simple and a bit silly but at least they move along at a fast pace. I quite enjoyed the third book, although I'm a bit embarrassed to admit it.

West End Games: Are they a force for good or a force for evil? Well, I've seen some savage criticisms of their info in some British and European zines. Some people have complained about the stuff they've "invented". I don't mind this so much as long as it doesn't conflict with what we already know. What I do agree with are criticisms of info they provide which is wrong. For instance, the blueprint of the *Falcon* in the *Star Wars Sourcebook* is full of mistakes. Another annoying thing is the use of photos and illustrations we've seen many times before. There aren't many rare photos and sketches considering they've had access to Lucasfilm archives.

In their defense, I will say that I find a lot of the info very interesting and it does seem well researched. And I suppose we should face the fact that they aren't producing a SW Bible. These books are supplements for playing the games.

One of the topics discussed in various letters in SE#33 was how Vader/Emperor discovered Luke's identity. Well, it seems pretty obvious to me. When the stormtroopers paid a social call to the Lars' farm, they would have learned of Luke's identity then or

later on. His name wasn't a secret. Eventually, Vader would've seen their report and put 2 and 2 together. Which raises a difficult question: Why didn't Ben, Owen or Beru change Luke's name? I know it's a big galaxy but obviously Ben figured Luke would be important one day... So why take the risk? I suppose this question has been debated before but I've never heard a satisfactory theory to explain it.

A. G. Steyn: "Weeping over Darthie's death ... which (keeping in mind what Vader did to him, his family, his friends) isn't exactly rational behavior." I don't agree at all. Firstly, Luke wasn't crying for Vader. He was crying for his father, Anakin, and himself. Other fans have complained about the apparent ease with which Luke forgives Vader, but it just isn't the case. What Luke achieves is something not even Ben or Yoda thought possible -- he redeems his father. It's his greatest triumph, the point the whole trilogy had been building up to. In my opinion, it isn't the Emperor's energy bolts that kill Vader/Anakin. It's Anakin's decision to turn away from the Dark Side, to return to the Light, something Ben and Yoda thought couldn't be done. Anakin comes back: The Return of the Jedi. Luke was the one that helped him do it. The price is death but his "soul" has been redeemed. I was so pleased that Lucas decided to show Anakin's face. I feared he might chicken out and not show it just to retain Vader's mystique. If he'd done that, I'd have really hated ROTJ. It's essential that the audience see that inside the dark monster is a man. Just a man. Anakin is morally responsible for what he did as Vader and so it is pretty hard to imagine being able to forgive him for all he's done, but Luke manages it. It's a feat greater than destroying a Death Star or surviving a battle with Vader and the Emperor. It's why Luke is the greatest of all heroes.

Sandi Jones: Concerning whether there was a version in which Luke made 2 attacks down the Death Star trench: I never noticed until just recently but in the novel he does make 2 attempts and even in the storybook (which is very condensed), he makes 2 runs. I believe they did shoot 2 attacks but edited them together as one. At one point, Biggs says: "Hurry up, Luke, they're coming in much faster *this time!*" which does suggest they'd already tried it once.

Tim Blaes: I've been watching the *Batman* cartoon show and it's excellent. They've taken the best elements from the comics and the movies and come up with something brilliant. Tim, you said in SE#33,

I know for a fact that the U.K. version of TESB was longer." Aaaggh! This rumor was going around in '81. It's *not* true. I've seen many different prints of TESB and, apart from the minor differences we've talked about, there is no difference. The rumor used to be that the British prints contained the scene where Luke tells Leia he'll be going to Dagobah. Well, it's not true.

On the subject of different versions, a friend just told me that an extended version of SW has just been shown in the States. Is *that* true?

Cheryl D. Pryor: A new series of Topps cards? New toys? Have they appeared yet? I've just seen the book on SW collectibles by Stephen Sansweet. It's very nice with some interesting pics, but it only seems to cover a limited amount of the SW merchandise.

I've also seen the new George Lucas book by Charles Champlin but I don't think I'll be buying it. The text isn't much and it's too sycophantic. It even makes excuses for Lucas' involvement with *Howard the Duck*. Apart from 2 or 3 rare photos, the pics are the usual bunch, I thought.

I read in the latest Lucasfilm Magazine the interview with George Lucas. He says he will get around to making the first trilogy but it'll be a few years yet. It seems that that nasty article in *Cinefantastique* has had one positive effect: it provoked Lucas into publicly stating his plans for the saga. He also seems very pessimistic about ever making the final trilogy. I figure that's why the recent books and comics have been able to do major things with the main characters. If Lucas doesn't plan to do any movies concerning Han, Luke and Leia, the writers won't be treading on his turf with what they're doing.

It occurred to me recently that there are some obvious differences between U.S. SW fandom and European SW fandom. Firstly: Most U.S. fans seem to be women -- 85-90% -- whereas in Europe it's about 75% male. U.S. zines seem mostly made up of fiction and the lettercols mostly discuss the characters and their emotions. Over here, the zines tend to consist more of articles and the letters mostly discuss technical and historical stuff about the saga. I don't know what conclusions can be drawn from this. Anyone got any ideas on the subject? ((Ed: I'd love to have some of those articles for SE! Any of you non-American fans out there interested in contributing any??)) Well, that's all for now.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Tim Blaes
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Why do I always start my LoCs at the last moment? *sigh* This one'll be up for the "under the wire award", for sure.

I'll open up with comments on some interesting publications I've run across. Have any of you come across the Bantam Skylark juvenile SW books? I haven't had a chance to actually read them yet, but they do look interesting, if somewhat ... juvenile. They are well illustrated and the covers are beautiful. They are *The Glove of Darth Vader*, *The Lost City of the Jedi* and *Zorba the Hutt's Revenge*, all by Paul and Hollace Davids. Cover price is \$3.99 each, but I picked up a boxed set at WalMart for \$7.78. Coming soon: *Mission from Mount Yoda*, *Queen of the Empire*, and *Prophets of the Dark Side*.

Besides *Dark Empire*, Dark Horse Comics also publishes Classic SW reprints of the newspaper strips, reformatted and augmented with some original art. It's a blast from the past that I haven't had the chance to see until now.

Star Wars: From Concept to Screen to Collectible by Stephen J. Sansweet would be an excellent addition to any fan's library. The book's primary focus is on the licensing of the Saga. Particularly interesting are the glimpses of prototype toys that never made it to the shelves. It really is laced with "never before seen photos". \$19.95 softcover, ISBN 0-8118-0096-2.

I'm afraid that I can not claim to have had a LoC in every issue. Check #30. The only reason I didn't get in a Loc that issue, however, is because the Post Awful apparently ate it.

So, Lucas would like to have 10 clones, huh? I didn't do all that well in biology but, as soon as I get a time machine that can travel sideways as well as back and forward, well, George and I can talk.

Carolyn Golledge: Hey, I know full well that Lucas is a flawed mortal, like the rest of us. I probably wouldn't like his movies if he wasn't. At least he isn't dead like Roddenberry, who has been canonized and placed above criticism. Re modern movies: I don't care much for gore, but what's wrong with sex, special effects, and a little noise? A B-movie now and then is good for you. (If you eat steak all the time, you lose your taste for hamburger.) Re Creation: I *am* a consumer; I'm just not a mindless consumer, nor am I gullible.

Nora Mayers: Sorry, I have no new information on *Superman: The New Movie* (I still think that title is dorky). I wouldn't mind seeing Reeve in another movie also, but if they ever do another Superman TV program, I'd rather see a different approach to the character. As for the Pern books, if you like fantasy over SF, read them in order of publication. But, if you would rather approach the books from a SF angle, read *Dragonsdawn* first. McCaffrey herself calls Pern SF, but the psuedo-medieval society was what held me back from reading them at first. But, once I started, I swallowed the books whole. ((Ed: I second Tim's recommendation on reading *Dragonsdawn* first. It sets up the entire series and cleared up parts of the books for me that I'd been puzzling over for years.))

Z. P. Florian: Does Darthie have "the equipment"? Well, I'm sure the boys back in the lab could build it for him if he didn't.

Yeah, now that I think about it, it was weird for Leia to tell Luke to run away and hide. I can only guess that because she was in shock and couldn't deal with it yet, she didn't want Luke to deal with it, either.

Tammy Olsen: The rumor that I constantly keep hearing is that DC Comics is about to go belly-up and that Dark Horse is in a prime position to buy them out. Dark Horse is the fastest growing comics company today, so I'm surprised that none of the comic stores in our area carry them. The regular newstand around here carries their Young Indiana Jones adaptations. If you haven't lucked out and found the trade paperback collection of *Dark Empire* on your own by now, I might be able to track you down a copy.

Mary Jo Fox: I can imagine a near scandal involving Leia and a senatorial page. On the other hand, there might be perks and privileges that go with the office. Perhaps Mon Mothma recommended the best "escort services" for all those diplomatic functions. But if Leia is experienced in matters of physical intimacy, why didn't she try and jump Luke's bones? Is it because she classifies men between those you "bring home to daddy" and those you have "fun" with? Considering who she wound up with, I don't think so. Was Obi-Wan playing chaperone? I think Leia's latent Force-sense set off a klaxon the moment things got too hot between her and Luke. But that must have lead to some tense and frustrating moments in their relationship.

Jennifer Moore: I prefer to think of Han and Indy as being different sort of people. Indy was born into a prominent family. Somehow, I don't think Han

was. If Adventure has a name, it's Indiana Jones, but Han Solo knows "adventure" is something to be avoided, if you expect to make a profit. By the way, how many times do you have to remind yourself *Young Indy* is set during World War One?

Catriona Campbell: So you're "stuck on the dark side of Tatooine". Scotland is the second foreign country I'd most like to visit (first being New Zealand, third Japan), but I suppose anybody's home town can seem boring. Hope you find a jet plane under the Christmas tree. Better yet, an X-wing. How far are you from Loch Ness?

As for your not writing a romance with Luke because you don't want to be stuck with a "Mary Sue" label, I say go for it! As long as your Mary Sue is not insipid or omnipotent, I will consider her a valid character. And, from the show of hands, it would seem most of SE readers think Luke could use some "female companionship". So, go ahead and fulfill your private fantasies. That's one of the things that fanzines are for. (And, if you make your Mary Sue a Starfleet officer or a Colonial Viper pilot or whatever, then you can send it to me to put in *A-Cross the Force* and make me very happy.) Oh, and if you ever make it to MediaWest, remind me to give you a *great big hug!*

Debbie Kittle: If the cell where Leia was being held was being monitored, and that's very probable, then Darth would have had plenty of time to review the tapes *before* the coming battle.

Sandi Jones: I've been told that the Greek plays we study in our schools are there not so much because they were the best plays Greece had to offer, but because they were the few plays to survive the ages. So, in some admittedly unlikely post apocalyptic future, *Wookiee Commode* is taught in high school, next to such classics as *M*A*S*H Goes to Morocco* and *The Zine Ed of Gor*. ((Ed: Tim, have you ever read *A Canticle for Liebowicz*??))

Michelle Malkin: An editor has the right to say "make changes in your work or I won't print it". But an author has the right to say, "you will not make changes in my work that I disapprove of". I once had an editor who mauled a vignette of mine and made the most inexplicable changes. This is a good way to get on my bad side. I'm also sensitive about letterzine editors who mess with my words. The only thing you can do about that when it happens is walk away from the letterzine.

Re "guilty pleasures": Does anyone remember

Night of the Lepus? I'll watch anything with Sybil Danning or Tim Thomerson in it. Some juvenile/young adult books have a focus and clarity that some supposedly adult books lack. Diane Duane's *Wizardry* books are a joy to read, but I might never have found them if Diane hadn't talked about them at a World-Con panel on writing SF for young adults.

I'm here at SE as much for the "crowd" as I am for SW fandom. Sometimes I'd like to talk about things like comics or ST, with someone who *isn't* a hard-core comics or Trek fan, if that makes sense.

Kathy Age!: Zines are supposed to be non-profit, so a zine on a computer disk would be frightening only if someone sold hardcopy or the disks at a profit. If they spread from fan to fan, on a personal basis, that probably wouldn't happen.

Anne-Virginie Dutech: Re your comments on a Ben & Leia relationship, you forget to toss Han and Luke into the mix. With Han blowing raspberries and Luke idolizing the old coot, Leia might not express any reservations openly. And she is a diplomat.

Perhaps Leia is one with the "Plaid Side of the Force". She is a politician.

Maggie Nowakowska: It was good to talk with you again, even if I did blow a hole in my phone bill. I still think the paranormal should be addressed in *Young Indy*. When did Helen Seymour die? How about a ghost story? I would like to see Caitlin O'Heaney in a recurring role as a Scottish vampire, though I would agree that's probably not the direction Lucas wants to take his show.

Cheree: Am I just imagining it or did some of A. G. Steyn's LoC get lopped off at the bottom of page 50? ((Ed: ...sigh... No, you're not imagining it. I didn't realize it until several people brought it to my attention. It comes from reprinting certain pages to correct typos and not having time to do a final, total read-through of the issue. My fault and apologies to A.G. and all concerned.))

And now we sign off, with Lando Calrissian and his All Corellian Orchestra, as they ask the musical question: "What Do You Get A Wookiee For Christmas When He Already Has A Comb?"



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November 28, 1992

Hey, all you old Enclavers!

Winter has come to Browns Gap and Christmas is in the air! The trees are bare, the ducks go quacking around the pond, the gray heron puts in an occasional appearance, and the screech-owls make shivery sounds at night. Dan and I have been exploring over on the other side of Beaver Creek, eyeing potential Christmas trees among the many cedars that grow wild there. Today it is cold and gray, with a hint of snow (!), but our woodstove is toasty and the fridge is packed with leftover turkey & trimmin's. That Obi-Wan Kenobi sure knows how to cook!

Got a nasty shock at work the other day when our department, Interlibrary Services, received an overdue notice from the Palatine Public Library in Palatine, Illinois. My heart was palpitating like all get out until I realized a crucial P was palpably missing, and that his Imperial Hideousness would not, in fact, be sending his "sinister agents" to U-T to retrieve the book. Drats...

Issue #33 was so good and so juicy, there's so much I want to say, and yet I've left this to the last minute, as usual.

Thank you, Lisa, Maggie, Matthew, and everybody else who shared good book discoveries. I'll be tapping into OCLC to see what libraries are holding them. I got a catalog from the Intergalactic Trading Company the other day, and lo & behold there's a new book published by Abrams called *George Lucas: The Creative Impulse* by Charles Champlin. I've put my borrowing request in to 5 libraries that hold it, but so far two of them have passed. Must be a popular book! Guess I'll have to break down and ask Santa for it.

Z. P.: Did you really like *Dark Force Rising* better than *Heir to the Empire*? Gee, maybe I ought to go back and read it again. On second thought... naaahhhh! I agree, the Dark Horse comics are better. I think that in the depths of Luke's enslavement to the new Emperor, the ghost of Anakin should appear to him and help him out. Frankly, whatever happens *after* ROTJ doesn't matter much to me (UNLESS...!), but I admit I'm narrow-focused. Where on Earth did you learn that "permission to bring back Vader or

Kenobi was denied"?? It's these little crumbs that drive me nuts...

Loved your insight into the Life With the Larses. Can't you see them sitting around the supper table saying "Pass the salt, please" and talking about the weather? How did Luke learn about his real father to begin with, I wonder. Did Owen take him aside at age 10 or so for a man-to-man talk? Or did Luke stumble on the truth by accident? Had Luke ever seen a holo of his dad? Did he know his name was Anakin? We'll never know the answers because the Prequel happens too long ago. Now here's an idea for a new TV series, George: "The Young Luke Skywalker Chronicles"!!!

Marti Schuller: I'm so glad you said what you did about the waxing and waning of your SW involvement. I went through a bad "waning" phase right after our move, and I was afraid that my SW madness had run its course. With the coming of fall, however, I could feel my imagination perking up, and now I'm back to normal. How many other Enclavers go through these periods? ((Ed: Cheer up, Tina. Even I go through periods when I say, "Why am I spending all this money on fannish stuff? I could take my Media-West money and have my kitchen painted." But then the madness passes and I come to my senses! P.S. My kitchen still needs to be painted!))

Maggie: A history of SW zinedom? Just what I've been wishing someone would do. I'd love to contribute but not being an Eofan (what a great word!), all I can do is drool in anticipation. What would I most like to read about? The interface between fans and Lucasfilm. I think *A Brief History of SW Fantime* would be a good subtitle, but for a main title maybe you should have something a little snappier. A word or phrase from the Trilogy, though that's getting pretty picked-over. To me, SW fandom resembles an Indian tribe, especially with its yearly gathering in Lansing, so how about *Star Wars Nation*? Just an idea...

Cheree: I like the sound of that upcoming *Tremor* cover! In full color, eh? What a sly way to tell us you're going back to B&W! ((Ed: I neither joke nor jest! Nancy Stasulis' painting of Vader that graces the cover of TF#7 is, indeed, in color! Just wait until you feast your eyes on the Big Guy!))

Jennifer Moore: Re your comments to A.G. about Obi-Wan: Remember in ANH when Ben & Vader were fighting, and Luke rushes in, and Ben gives Luke that wonderful crafty look ("Ben's wee

glance" as Catriona would say), then looks back at Vader before raising his saber and inviting the death blow? Does anyone else sense triumph here? Obi-Wan has managed to bring father and son together at last, and now by dying at Vader's hand, he sets Luke up to be his avenger. What a master stroke! Not that I'm convinced Ben is really such a schemer. But he is an enigmatic character!

Catriona: Thank you thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kind words about Sebastian Shaw. I was beginning to think I was all alone in the world. Not that you're exactly a *fan* of his, I realize, but at least you're not saying those awful things about him like H-D and Uncle F. I gather SS is almost unknown in the UK in spite of his lifetime in theatre, including the Royal Shakespeare Company. Anything you know about him, no matter how trivial, would be welcome news to me.

Don't feel bad because you're so far away. Personally, I envy *you* living in Scotland. The brief times I've spent in the UK only make me wish I had a large block of years to spend exploring the British Isles. Truly one of the most intensely magical places on this planet!

I agree with you and Debbie Kittle that Vader found out about Luke not through the Force but through intelligence reports and the like. What he must have felt when he heard the name "Skywalker"! Did he run to the Emp right away with the information, or was their holochat in TESB the first time they had discussed it? Obviously, Palpatine knew the score because he said, "The son of Skywalker must not become a Jedi." Had he known all along?

And I like your reading of the Lars family, too. Owen has had a bum rap both in the novelization and from fans; it's nice to have you stand up for him. By the way, even though the novelization says that Ben and Owen were brothers, I just don't believe it. My first notion was that Owen and Anakin were brothers, then I started to wonder about Beru... Hell, they *all* have grey-blue eyes! Ben, Moff Tarkin, Mon Mothma, Chewie...

Sandi Jones: Thank you for your lovely sentence about Anakin living up to Luke's idealization of him. I couldn't agree more. And I'll gladly join you in your post-Armageddon trek to Skywalker Ranch to find out what's in those files!

Matthew Whitney: You wouldn't be working on a "post-ROTJ Anakin" story, would you, by any chance?

Cheryl Pryor: You really run a comic book shop?

I could almost forgive you those Darthies. I have a cousin in Richmond (Richmond is not too far from Knoxville), so who knows, maybe a Jawa will show up on your doorstep one day!

Did you see Lucasfilm #17? Did you glomm that 18-inch soft (*soft??*) vinyl model figure kit with the "ultrafine detail"? Is it worth \$64.95 to you? Are you wondering how a certain Glove survived the Deathstar explosion, and whether there was a Hand in it? Did the sidebar on page 6 leave you howling at the moon??

About those European initials: "A.G." stands for "Allgemeine Gesellschaft", the German version of "Incorporated" or "Limited." Therefore, A. G. Steyn is not really an individual, she's a company. Don't let that photo in front of the Christmas tree fool you...

All & Sundry: I'm really enjoying the discussion about Leia and Vader. Tantalizing as it is to imagine he sensed their kinship as early as ANH, I doubt very much if he did. I think he was genuining surprised when he learned the truth in ROTJ. James Earl's voice goes up almost an octave there! Well, maybe an augmented fourth...

Yet the interaction between Darth and Leia is fascinating in any case. From the moment she is brought before him in ANH, it's obvious that they "go back a long way," and that she has no fear of him. I am tantalized by her first line to him: "Only you could be so bold." It sounds almost like a compliment, especially compared with the "foul stench" line she bestows on Tarkin later. When you think of all the things she *could* have said about him, it's odd that she would choose the word "bold".

Then comes the scene in her cell with the gruesome hint of torture to come -- only the next time we see her, she looks none the worse. What really happened in that torture scene? Could it have been something like what Maggie envisioned in "Notions"?

And finally, at the destruction of Alderaan, where Tarkin backs her up against Vader, and he restrains her with a hand on her shoulder, she seems so used to him somehow. She doesn't shrink from his touch, doesn't beat on his chest or spit at him (as the novelization so regrettably has her do). It's what *doesn't* happen that is intriguing, suggestive of a subtle empathy between them, underscored at the end of ROTJ when his last thought is of her.

And speaking of last thoughts: Luke is not getting the girl because Vader didn't die at the end of ROTJ, and the poor boy has his hands full. The true

facts are only now beginning to reach our Galaxy.
Stay tuned!

Puhleeze... No Stars!

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I will be on time. I *will* be on time! Hello! Hope everyone had a happy Turkey Day. I'll be leaving for Darkovercon the day after. Four glorious days in a row away from work. Staring tonight. Sigh.

Carolyn Golledge: Hiya! And thanks for your nice comment on whatever the heck that zine was that I did a zillion years ago (the old gray cells seem to be not replacing themselves a lot faster these days than they didn't replace themselves back then.)

Hmmm, I think I need more than a great voice to be attracted to an actor. I love Michael Gambon's voice (he plays Inspector Maigret), but he does *not* turn me on. Harrison Ford's looks in TESB or *Witness* or *Frisco Kid*, on the other hand... And, I like his voice, too. I love Patrick Stewart's voice, too, but I wish he would stop dropping VCRs out of windows. One's bound to land on someone's head. (Are they showing this ad in Australia?)

Puhleeze, no star guests at MediaWest*Con! Not no time. Not ever! I agree with you about how it would spoil such conventions. Plus, I have been to many guest star conventions where the spirit of fannish creativeness was nowhere to be seen or heard. All anyone was interested in was seeing the stars, being seen *with* the stars and the heck with any friends who might have been there to see them.

Z. P. Florian: Re Luke's eating habits at a state banquet -- I kind of like the idea of his baggy sleeves falling into the main course. Just like old times at Aunt Beru's dinner table.

Are you saying that Yoda and Ben Kenobi meant for Luke to kill his father and then not have any kids of his own? What about Leia? Or is it that practicing Jedi don't have children due to their belonging to a religious order of some kind, but that Leia and Han

would be free to produce little possible future Jedi? Seems to me that this would be a way of cutting off an awful lot of perfectly good genes. And, you can't keep a good mutation down.

Marti Schuller: Another Eddings fan! I love the books about Garion and his companions. His other series is okay, but it just isn't grabbing me the way the first did. The people in it just weren't as interesting. Hopefully, it will pick up. Eddings has a tendency that I've noticed in lots of British books, movies and TV series -- they start slow then pick up speed. Eddings' books start out at a snail's pace but have you gasping for breath by the time you get to the last page.

What did the Jedi do with someone who had fallen to the Dark Side? How about send out a hit Jedi? Gads, what an idea! If they were a military as well as a religious order, like the Knights Templar, why not?

Maggie Nowakowska: Good luck with the SW fan history. If I can help in any way, please let me know. I have tons of old SW letterzines and correspondence. How about *Tempest in a Teapot: A Brief History of SW Fandom* as a title? I'd better not chronicle the Church of Ford/Cathedral of Luke Controversy, since I was involved. Dumb, dumb, dumb. Thank Ghu that the actors never got involved in any of that nonsense.

Beastiality, hmm? Well, I'd be perfectly happy to be with such "beasts" as Sarek or Surak, rather than such illustrious so-called "sons of Adam" as Hitler or Stalin. I'll bet that the Fundamentalist ST contingent was the same group of fen in SW who said (and wrote in their stories) that sex was a sin but detailed depictions of torture were just fine. If they want to believe that, fine. But, leave me out of it. I don't believe in torture; I do believe in sex between consenting adults. One is evil; one is natural. To say that you can write about one but not the other tells me the kind of person you are. Personally, I don't believe in censorship, but the kinds of censorship others believe in tells me worlds about them. Sheesh, if Amanda was guilty of beastiality with Sarek, what the hell does that make Spock?

Re my own comment to Tim Blaes: Now that I've actually had a chance to *read Rescue Run*, I can say that the story actually involves a group of Terrans who come to Pern *before* the Pernese forgot their origins. They just meet the wrong people. Tsk.

Cheree: A Space Ship fan! Here's the info you

requested. The books were written by Louis Slobodkin. They are published by Collier Books in softback and MacMillon Books in hardback. Both companies are in NYC. The titles are "The Space Ship Under the Apple Tree", "The Space Ship Returns to the Apple Tree" and "The Three-Seater Space Ship." ((Ed: Thanks, Mickey! I'll look for them!))

Tim Blaes: Luke's deja vu on Dabobah could have been genetic or racial memory as you and others suggested. I like it being an actual memory, though. There's so much writers can do with that. Here's another question, one that I brought up a long, long time ago and never got an answer to. Did Vader actually kill Ben Kenobi or did Ben disincorporate before Vader's lightsaber ever touched him? It looks that way if you watch the battle closely, and Vader seems awfully startled by Kenobi's missing body. Maybe it shouldn't have vanished so fast. When Ben puts up his sword, was he surrendering to the inevitable or giving himself time to concentrate on his vanishing act? Perhaps by rejoining the Force voluntarily, he was cutting down on the time it took to recover from the shock of death, and was able to come back to help Luke sooner than if he'd been sliced in half.

Kathy Agel: Reread *Decision at Doona* and then finish *Crisis on Doona*. It's worth your while. After so many years, I'd forgotten how much I'd enjoyed the first book. And, the second book was a good continuation. I'm going to reread *Dinosaur Planet*, which I remember not liking. The later books in the series plus the series it was combined with look a lot better, and I don't want to miss out on anything because I missed something from the start.

Cheryl D. Pryor: I hope that British production company does do the Brother Cadfael books as a series -- for *Mystery*, not a weekly show! Ian Holm is a possibility for the lead, but how about either Gareth Thomas or John Rhys-Davies? Considering that Cadfael seems to solve about 3 or 4 murders per year, *Mystery*'s four show per year format would be just about right for him. (I think that Pargeter never expected him to be so popular when she started Cadfael off as a monk already in his late 50's, so she made his murders seasonal rather than yearly. Otherwise, since there are already 19 full length books, the poor man would now be in his later 70's!)

Anne-Virginie Dutech: Good point about Luke not using his Force ability on Jabba. There's really no reason why he couldn't have, unless Jabba was Force-

sensitive, too. Now there's an interesting idea to speculate on. Leia, not realizing her own Force-sensitivity, could have caught him off guard in the end, simply because he wasn't aware of *her* sensitivity and she wasn't, either! I wonder if Lucas knew.

Guess what? In my "Aeries" series, I gave Han a normal, middle-class background. Maybe I'll reprint these stories someday, along with the two, ahem, "unprintable" stories.

Gotta run. My turkey dinner is about to arrive along with some chocolate chip cheese cake. Yum! Happy holidays to all and to all a happy, healthy new year!

Christmas Shopping

Debbie Kittle
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November 18, 1992

Happy Holidays to one and all! I hope everyone's winter is delightful! Well, as I'm sure some of you have seen, George Lucas will have the next trilogy out between 1997 and 2000. That certainly seems like a long time but considering it's been 9 years since ROTJ, what's a few more?! Now that he's finally given us his Word, I'll be interested to see if he keeps it. And, of course, only a year between films instead of three will be nice.

I don't know how many of you have cable and get a shopping channel called QVC but they had a 2 hour SW memorabilia special with Mark Hamill as special guest October 28th. That was an incredible show. Mark was great and there was even a famous caller-- Peter David, the ST author. I bought quite a few things from them but then I always do. They have nice stuff and it's great to Xmas shop and not have to stand in line for it. I got the new Stephen Sansweet book: *SW: From Concept to Screen to Collectible*. I highly recommend this book for all of you SW collectors. It is fantastic! The pictures are absolutely

incredible. QVC also has had some great ST shows and Shatner was a guest a few weeks ago. That was a surprise. I thought he'd never stoop that low.

Anyway, speaking of Mark, I finally got to see *Black Magic Woman* and found it to not be that bad. It had a decent plot and I was surprised by the ending. The writhing Mark shots were not that bad either!

Anyone catching the *Batman* cartoon? It's really extremely well done and Mark does a wonderful Joker. I never miss taping an episode.

Another Dark Horse comic is out now. They are reprinting the SW newspaper comics in color. Very nice. *Dark Empire* #6 is not out yet as I type this. I don't know what they're waiting on.

Two new SW products for this holiday season: Super NES SW game and X-WING for IBM and compatible computers and the latter looks like it will be fantastic. You get to go out on missions as a pilot. You don't really see the Big 3 but you hear about them in background chatter. I can't wait to play.

The Sci-Fi channel is everything I ever wanted a SF channel to be. The weekend it premiered I saw ANH 5 times! That was followed on that Saturday by the other 2 on another movie channel so had my own private trilogy party. What a way to spend a weekend! Been having a lot of fun catching some oldies but goodies.

Nora: I loved the picture of you and Khamakazzi. Arabs are my favorite and Khemosabi is one of the most beautiful.

You were at OktoberTrek? I went on Sunday and had a great time seeing Brent Spiner and DeForest Kelley. It seems I'm discovering more SW fans in the MD and VA area than I thought possible. I found out a little while ago that Nancy Stasulis lives about 5 miles away from me. What a small world!

Z.P.: Re: Leia to Tatooine and OWK: In the new HTTE sourcebook put out by WestEnd, they say Leia was on her way to bring OWK out of retirement when she received a transmission of the DS plans from Alliance spies. I like that explanation. I found it hard to believe that after she picked up the plans, she went on with them in her possession to Tatooine.

I hope the doll exhibit comes to light at MWC. I'm making a stuffed Bantha that, Force willing, will be seen with my Tuskan Raider at MWC. I've got 3 of the 4 legs attached to the body as of this writing so the work is progressing.

I'm not sure Leia's comment about Luke running

away and hiding was weird. She was overly concerned for him though so maybe it was just a little out of character. Something else that was strange was Luke coming on the mission in the first place. He knew the Emperor was going to be there so could dear old Darthie be far behind?

Dr. Mary: I'm not sure whether you're taking votes or keeping count but you can add my voice along with Z.P.'s. Bring back WC! Please?!

Marti: Sorry to hear you got a deluge this summer. I only asked for the high temps for you. However, my summer was thoroughly delightful and I never have delightful summers. We maybe had 1/2 dozen or so days over 90 but no where near 100 as last year. And hardly any humidity. It was a summer I can live with and I hope to see more of them. Rumor has it that this winter will be comparable to Hoth. 'Bout time!!!

Hope you make it to MW 13.

I feel those glowing "after-images" of Ben could only offer advice and guidance but nothing else.

Re other Dark Side fallers: Who's to say they had any? Maybe, in all the history of the Republic, there was never a corrupt, ambitious person like Palpatine. I do find that hard to believe but it's certainly possible. Perhaps they exiled them all to a planet with no means of escape (much like Kirk did to Khan in "Space Seed" on ST) with warning beacons set in space. Interesting thought.

Maggie: I would love to read/buy "The History of SW Fanzine Fandom" or whatever title you chose. I didn't get into fandom until 1984/85 when I bought WC 1 so I missed all the interesting stuff. Good luck with it and with that MM-Mom-Anakin-Bailstory. It sounds good.

Tammy: Welcome to SE! Hope your trip to the Olympics was wonderful. I enjoyed watching the Dream Team cream the opposition.

You can write to Dark Horse comics at: 10956 SE Main Street, Milwaukie, OR 97222. I read somewhere that they would send all 6 issues but I can't find it anywhere. Write to them and see what they say. In mid-1993 will be another SW miniseries. And there will be a new SW comic strip in their new color comics anthology called *Dark Horse Comics*. The new SW strip is called "Tales of the Jedi". Can't wait.

Mary Jo: I don't want GL to churn out garbage either. I would rather see him not do another movie than to have it come to that. However, a promise is a promise. If he couldn't/can't do them then say so

and don't leave us hanging. Of course, now we know. We only have to wait 7 years.

I think the electroshock torture Han got was quite a bit different than the Force-shock torture Luke received from the Emperor. Vader's torture of Han was just used enough to elicit pain so Luke would sense it. Remember, both Boba and Vader wanted Han alive so it couldn't be too much. The pain Palpatine inflicted reached down, in my opinion, to Luke's soul.

I think Palpatine could've destroyed Luke with one round of the blue lightening but wanted Luke to know how much of a fool he was for not joining them. Certainly a possibility for some lasting internal damage.

Jennifer: Good to see you at OktoberTrek, if only briefly.

Ben definitely sacrificed himself as a motivating 'force' to keep Luke focused on his goal: defeat Vader. As he said in ANH, that if he were to be struck down, he'd become even more powerful. That power was Ben's bonds of friendship/guardian/teacher to Luke and I feel they were very strong. Ben, who knew Luke's father, was a link to a past Luke had been denied for years. They hardly had time to talk when Vader sliced him up as he did "Luke's father", from Ben's POV to Luke. So Luke sees Vader as the man/machine who took the lives of the 2 most important people in his life and indirectly 2 more, Owen and Beru.

I think, also, it was a little underhanded of Ben to stoop to lying but the Emperor and Vader needed to be stopped even at the cost of lives and friendship. It's probably a good thing that Luke had kept Ben's spirit close to him for those months and/or years after his death since Luke gave him the chance to explain things on Dagobah.

I'd always wondered that if Vader never found out about his son, would Ben and/or Yoda tell him who his dad was? My thoughts tend to take me to the conclusion that no, it would've remained a secret. Perhaps Luke would still sense the goodness in him but why would he even try to look for it? But would there have been enough motivation to defeat/kill Vader once they had their confrontation? The death of Ben and his aunt and uncle certainly might help but nothing like his feelings for Leia. Interesting alternative ending.

Treena: I don't think I have it in for OWK. I do feel he should've told Luke at some point about his

father but then there never is a good time. Perhaps on Dagobah with Yoda as council and guide.

Mark Hamill on that wonderful QVC special mentioned the Bespin gantry scene. Prowse said "Obi Wan killed your father" and Luke reacts the same with "No!". Later, of course, James Earl Jones dubs it in with the line we hear but right after that, a newspaper came out with headlines saying "Alec Guinness character killed Luke's father." That father scene was supposed to be very hush-hush, only 4 or 5 people knew about the truth. Perhaps that article in the comic found out about the above and figured there'd been a change.

A.G. (and Cheree): Re: editing. I'm just now finding out about this wealth of frustration. My first 2 stories were put into WC3 and *Shadowstar* respectively with little editing/changes done. I trusted these ladies who have more experience than I to do and so was quite happy with everything.

However, my fourth story is giving me some giant headaches. I first sent it to WC and it was accepted with some minor work to be done. Fine by me as they had done fine with my first story. Well, WC folded so I sent it off elsewhere.

I find it really amazing how much different each person is with editing. This story has now gone on to 2 other editors and both are VERY different. What I'd like to see in editing is someone who will correct grammar, sentence structure and spelling, perhaps make suggestions on changing words/verbs, etc., but nothing else. If something seems unimportant to the story maybe the editor can't see it but the writer has put it there for a reason so leave it alone. Is there anyone out there like that???

Please don't get me wrong, I'm for editing up to a point. The 2 editors have pointed out some things that were quite helpful with my story but I feel it went beyond helpful.

I love bookstores and owe my soul to about a half dozen of them but it's just wonderful to go in and lose yourself.

Sandj: Welcome back! I look forward to reading more of your stories. *Black Magic Woman* I believe went directly to video and his next one *Guyver* should be on video now. *Guyver* is the movie of the Japanese cartoon character that's supposed to be pretty popular over there. I don't know much about it except Mark is a CIA agent in the movie.

Matthew: I didn't know *Cinefantastique* was anti-Lucas. It did pinpoint and bring to light some ques-

tions and thoughts we've all sort of been thinking deep down. Maybe it helped motivate GL into committing himself just to prove them wrong.

I also second your plug of *In a Far Away Galaxy*. Very nice!

Mickey: What is the address for Dreamhaven Books? I'd like to order "Rescue Run".

Cheryl: Rumors of SW costumes at Trekcons?!? How ... how ... thoroughly wonderful! I now remember seeing a Jedi and a Kenobi at the cons in Rockville, MD and Richmond, VA. Hopefully at the March con with Nimoy, a Corellian can join the group.

Anne-Virginia: Welcome to SE! Re your comments about why Luke can't influence Jabba: As OWK told Luke, only the weak-minded can be influenced by the Force. Jabba certainly doesn't strike me as that type. Or maybe, like the Ysalamiri in the Zahn books, Jabba is able to turn the Force away from him.

Tidbits: Each issue of SE is getting bigger and better especially since there are new members every issue. And that means longer letters, too. Are my fingers getting shorter pounding out those keys!

Well, I was real disappointed in ABC's decision to put *Young Indy* on hiatus again. I think the network doesn't want to anger Sir George. I was so looking forward to seeing the episode that Carrie Fisher wrote about Mata Hari and which also included Ian McDiarmid but thanks to those ... political hour long specials, the show was pulled. I'm so glad the election is over. I just hope they'll repeat it if and when it returns. Maybe George will get smart and put it into syndication.

Well, that's all for now. Happy New Year! Fly Casually In The Force!



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Z. P. Florian: Re your answer to Tim Blaes: I do think too that race is of no consequence in the SW universe, although I imagine that a large percentage of the population must think that his/her/its own species look better than the others. Furthermore, if race doesn't matter, gender probably doesn't either.

Marti Schuller: I'm sure the Jedi of old would do the same thing with "someone who was falling or had fallen to the Dark Side" as they would have Luke do with Vader. They'd probably try to reason with him/her first, and, when that failed, they'd kill him/her. Execution does "reek of the Dark Side", but what about having Luke kill his own father?

Maggie Nowakowska: Re your comment to Matthew Whitney: I agree completely. I'm sure Imperial propaganda would treat Alderaan's destruction exactly as you said. And when will we get to read the story you talked about in your response to A. G. Stevn?

Mary Jo Fox: "Was the Princess a virgin?" you asked. Well, if Alderaani royalty is anything like European ones, then certainly not!

Debbie Kittle: You don't like the kiddie series? I think, too, that they're terrible!

Catriona Campbell: I knew that Luke and Leia were brother and sister in 1980, the same way you knew Vader was Luke's dad: playing with my cousins. We thought that, of course, they were brother and sister! It was obvious! Only adults could be blind enough not to see that!

And "Missing", bruisie/mendie? Obviously some people haven't read Louise's excellent novel!

Tim Blaes: How could Vader go from pink and twisted to smooth and moldy? The answer is easy: they're not the same persons! The Emperor has a bunch of them stashed away in a closet somewhere, and when one breaks or his batteries are exhausted, he gets another one out and no one can tell the difference! Clever, huh?

Cheryl Pryor: Please, just call me A.V. (Yes, another one! It's an invasion. You may have noticed that we have difficulty flexing our little fingers...)

And now a few general comments:

It has occurred to me that Luke's and Leia's

respective foster parents might not know that their father is Vader. Perhaps Bail Organa thought Leia was really his daughter... Any opinion on that?

I should have said so sooner, but to me "hiding in plain sight" does not make any sense. I think that if something is right under your nose for *twenty years*, you eventually notice it!

What did all of you think of *Dark Empire* #6? I was disappointed. I'm afraid the passive, inferior Jedi way of fighting evil is not spectacular or graphic enough for a comic book. It seemed too quick and too easy, just like Luke's return to the Light. Not realistic at all.

In conclusion, Scotland is beautiful and the Scots are wonderful people. Thank you, Treena!

General Ideas

Maggie Nowakowska
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November 21, 1992

Happy New Year to one and all!

Whatever each of us thinks of the election results, I think we can all find a chuckle in a post-election editorial column wherein the writer (Leslie H. Gelb), after a fairly serious assessment of the challenges facing Mr. Clinton, ends with a paragraph that starts: "May the force be with these two young knights of bright countenance on their journey." Even after 15 years, SW is still very much part of the common culture!

I've got some general ideas/thoughts to throw out before turning to last issue's letters. Reading an essay on various books assessing the historical/literary aspects of the Bible, I came across a reference to belief that I thought might apply to discussions of the Force. Two uses of the word "belief" were expressed: (1) *belief that*, which is assent to a given statement or proposition as true with the content of the belief, and open to verification or disproof; (2) *belief in*, which is an act of testimony to the believer's manner of being;

an act of faith or trust; a commitment or attestation, something *not* subject to confirmation or disproof.

I suspect that anyone who writes about the Jedi has come to some decision about the Force *vis a vis* these differences, but also wonder if anyone out there has any comment about how much of (1) is present in SW films/SW fanfic, and how much of (2) is assumed?

(Debbie Kittle: This might tie in with your comments about Han and the Force. He clearly recognizes effects of Forceful use. Perhaps he believes *that* the Force exists, but doesn't believe *in* the Force as an interactive energy.)

In this vein (well, the reference was in the same article), Byron wrote a poem about the conflict between Cain and Abel (which I'm led to believe comes down more on Cain's side than Abel's), about which he said to his publisher that Cain killed Abel out of "rage and fury against the inadequacy of his state to his conception." Now, there's a fairly useful description of Anakin Skywalker if you approach him from the angle of an exquisitely talented man who was frustrated by the Jedi and their angle on the Force. I'm going to have to look up that poem.

Also, friends and I were talking about the problems that have developed in our system's adversarial legal setup and I got to thinking: what if the Jedi had fulfilled the role of lawyers for the galactic society as a nondenominational, almost lay monk sort of legal profession, not working for fees or planetary/familial interests, but rather committed to an equitable/just outcome as possible within the parameters of the societies in question? Could that have been one way they helped keep the peace ... and earned the resentment of those factions in an increasingly interconnected, monetarily-oriented galactic society? Other societies don't use lawyers the way we do in the U.S.; any ideas on the subject, you folks with legal background, and from other countries?

And taking that cue, a hearty welcome to our new writers from abroad! Please, write more and often! And tell us all the different ways people elsewhere have and do react to the SW saga.

Catriona Campbell: You're right -- Owen is Luke's for real father; Owen's and Beru's daily influence is what crafted the man we see, however much inheritance and his Imaginary Dad fine-tuned his upbringing. And for all the gruffness we see between Luke and Owen, I think an argument can be made that many young men and their fathers go through a rough period when the son reaches the 18

to 23 year stretch. I've heard/read a lot of men say that they hardly interacted with their fathers at all at that time, except to scream and shout and sometimes even come to blows.

Anne-Virginie Dutech: Please! Go ahead and write the story you thought of from my outline! Surely there must be someone willing (and able, she quickly added) to work with you on smoothing out the English. I know I'd love to read your interpretation.

For me, to imagine Ben and Leia interacting implies such a different storyline that it creates different characters than the ones I know. Especially since, in my hearing of the scene between Ben and Luke in ROTJ, Ben's determination about Leia staying hidden implies an emotional involvement of some sort with Mom. I suspect that he'd only see Mom when he looked at Leia ... and that would probably irritate her no end, with her healthy ego. All in all, I think it fitting that Ben died when he did; he was just too caught up in the Old Days and besides, after what he'd been carrying on his back for 20 years, it was only kindness to let him go.

As for Jabba and Luke, who's to say that Jabba isn't skilled in the Force himself and able to ward his thoughts from young beginners?

I agree about Han's original status as middle-class. I remember having a long discussion with Martie Benedict (a fan whose delicious Han stories set the tone for most Han fanlit in the '80-'84 years in fandom) about how Han reminded both of us of too many middle class boys who struck out on their own, determined to prove that they were Real Bad Cases.

Tina Bentrup: *Joyce Yasner* talking about throwing Vader against a wall and plugging him full of holes? *Joyce*?? Gad, I'm glad I'm going to MWC next year; this I have got to see and hear.

A quick aside to Indy: Tim, his occult interests seem to be covered in the adult books by Rob MacGregor. I think the letter about Young Indy in the *Starlog* with the Old Indy interview addresses the subject of what could be covered in the Indy stories quite well.

Nora Mayers: I'm treating all the famous people as a game: Who's Next? And with a bit of tolerance because Lucas hung around with Joe Campbell so much that it's probably natural for him to imagine someone being able to meet so many famous people; Campbell, who's life years closely match Indy's, certainly did. Once a person gets into a certain social stratum/set, it is very easy to meet others in the same

set and Indy certainly has had openings into the early-20th century social and intellectual leaders set.

Mickey Malkin: The Grail prolonging Indy's life is a good idea!

Back to SW. The current discussion of Luke's private life is, for me, a good reason to plug the Archives once again. There are lots of stories that answer lots of questions fans are still asking. In *Pegasus* #3, for example, there is an "innocent young Luke and sex" story by Paula Block that is a delight. Taking place on Tatooine, a few years before ANH, the story provides an insight into Wormy's social life in a realistic way that is respectful of the character as he developed. I recommend it highly as a reprint to any zine editor!

While we're on Luke and his family's circumstances, an interesting book on *Family Secrets, How Telling and Not Telling Affect Our Children, Our Relationship, and Our Lives* (by Harriett Webster) provides some insights on how various people react to the serious secrets kept in many families.

Carolyn Golledge: Re: Fannish reactions to actor's voices. I guess it all depends on your culture and background. I actually dislike Ford's voice when he's trying to sound rough, tough and macho, and prefer his post-shot *Regarding Henry* voice, which is close to his "Han, when not playing big, bad outlaw" voice. As for Anthony Hopkins in the *Lambs* movie, after months of hearing about how great it was, I was massively disappointed when I finally saw the movie. He didn't sound at all strange or scary or even out of the ordinary to me.

Z. P. Florian: I have a problem with the reasoning that says that since Yoda and Ben did not have intimate partners in the movies, Jedi therefore must be singular. Just because they're alone in the few moments of their lives we see in the Saga doesn't mean they have always been solitary. Especially when you consider that both of them are at the ends of their lives, when many people are left alone. Heavens, there were at least 2 full years, almost 3, in my 20's when I simply didn't date, had no interest in dating, let alone being partnered, after the breakup of an intense affair of the heart. If someone had known me -- and only me as a representative of my job -- they could have used the same logic to conclude that all PR directors for sporting publications are celibate.

Sure, there are lots of arguments in favor of Jedi being singular in their lives (at least my Catholic upbringing thinks so), but what we see of Ben and

Yoda in the film is not one of the stronger claims. Not to mention the possibility with Yoda, who is not human, that our kind of sociability is totally irrelevant to his species.

Along similar sexual lines, I would conclude from the end of ROTJ that no, Darth doesn't have "the equipment" at least at the time of his death. When Vader has grabbed the Emperor and is holding him aloft, the energies seem to provide an x-ray vision of the man inside the armor ... and all we see are the skull and thoracic region bones (ribcage, collar bone, etc.). Because his arms and upper legs are visible, the implication of more of a physical body should be possible. From this, I've concluded that the head and trunk of Anakin Skywalker were all that were left of the man. Could be wrong, sure, but it makes sense that the limbs would be the first to be destroyed/less likely to be saved. And, artificial arms and legs would give him, as Darth Vader, superhuman cybernetic strength.

A. G. Steyn: Perhaps some useful, fannish conventions regarding fanlit and fan publishing are being lost in the passage of time. I don't know the particulars of your specific writer/editor exchange, but in the past, many writers -- especially new writers or those sending material to a new editor -- enclosed a SASE sufficient to the manuscript so that the editor could send the ms. back with suggested corrections, spelling and such, for approval by the author. No review of corrections often meant no future submissions by that writer, just as a refusal to change anything on the part of the writer could mean a rejection of the ms. Even-even on both sides.

Of course, there was danger in not reviewing even those "obvious" corrections; I know of deadly punctuation corrections that altered the author's intent, and of at least one honest vocabulary change that obliterated an author's carefully constructed mathematical metaphor. However, a certain amount of mistakes were usually accepted and simply bewailed (when I did my SW fanfic parody zine, *Jedistardark-falconknight*, I tried to guarantee every writer at least one meaning-changing type/editorial fix).

Also -- and I could be vastly mistaken here -- it seems that we have more and more people publishing who have no editing/writing background and therefore no knowledge of the usual courtesies between pub/ed and writer. I've run into zine eds who think that they can change anything they want simply because they are providing the labor and have last hands on the ms.

(this has happened to artists, too, who have found their work "fixed" with white-out). I also know writers who think that every word and comma they type is holy script. A pox on both houses; those attitudes not only embitter the ed/writer exchange, they also keep all of us from an opportunity to learn and grow better in our chosen fields of expression.

Re: zines with restricted content. I don't think the active factor here is censorship so much as marketing and time & trends. As for the first, editors will give their readers what they have learned their readers want; the second is related in that you as a writer just may be hitting a time when the trend in stories goes a different way than your interests. For an example of both, there certainly have been streetwise Hans in fanfic, but that was years ago and the softer image of Han won out in general fannish tastes. I remember looong letters waxing very emotional over the subject of the good Captain's obvious education and charitable spirit -- sorry, I wax sarcastic as I display *my* prejudices. Some of those arguments, though, did get nasty enough to cause at least one gafiation that I know of.

Personally, as a reader, I appreciate knowing the tone of a particular zine. Since I don't care for sweet/romance/cute stories about Leia and Han's love/married life (especially not the 60th version of the same subject), I want to know if the editor leans toward that kind of fanlit. Some people absolutely don't want violent stories, and if a writer sends a graphic story to one of those zines, of course the response will either be a rejection or a request to edit the story further.

Speaking of fannish behavior, what's the current reaction to *Enterprising Women*? After a first quick read, I found it fascinating and fairly accurate in its description of a large part of fandom. She certainly described many of the reactions friends and I have had over the years to a great deal of fanac and fanfic.

I've heard that some fans object to a presentation that gives a less than "normal" bent to our activities/writings. Well, what the hey, I have to admit that I'm one of those who always assumed that we were fully aware of not being part of the norm. So very many of us were considered outies/nerds/strange while in school -- a lot of us still are now that we're in the office, yours truly included. After all, if we had been busy with acceptable social behavior for young females (for those of us female; you guys speak for yourselves), we wouldn't have had time to read all those

books or make costumes or write hundreds of pages of fanfic. Fandom was our escape, our redemption, a place where we could feel "normal" for the first time. Of course, this reaction may be specific to those of us who came to fandom in our youth in the '60's and '70's. What say you folks who discovered fandom in your 30's or those who ... next letter!

Mary Jo Fox: Yes, welcome and please keep writing! Different views of the Saga across generations (see above!) are as fascinating as those from different cultures. I was already 28 when I first saw SW; my friend Alan thinks of it as something he studied in high school film class, and I know of someone who claims her first viewing "in utero". The different attitudes toward government between my 20-something friends and my 40-something fellow Boomers sometimes boggle me; it would be great to get a dialogue going on the possible different attitudes toward the Alliance/Empire in the different age groups.

I have to admit that who and who wasn't a virgin in the movie, Luke or Leia, has always seemed irrelevant to me. A more important question would be has she, or Luke, or even Han, had any serious relationship before they encountered each other. After all, attitudes towards virginity vary with the culture, religion and times, but relationships are a part of every human's experience, although again outside factors determine to a great extent how one behaves in those relationships. Leia could very well be experienced with the nice young men of her social set but startled and scared of the idea of sex with an older outlaw man of another culture. Safe and known could be just a game, while strange and "bad" could return a person quickly to a wary virginal state. But, then, I've always liked the idea that we are all virgins the first time we tumble a new lover.

It wouldn't surprise me if Jedi ran into opposition by local governments or ruling classes fairly regularly, but that as a galactic group/entity/philosophy, such specific troubles would not terribly affect the tradition. And if they survived successfully for 1,000 generations, I suspect that the current troubles with Palpatine, Vader and the Empire are the first serious *galactic* opposition. There always has to be a first time, and we just may be seeing a galaxy finally and for the first time becoming cohesive enough to be able to mount/support such opposition on a grand scale.

And that refers back to **Marti Schuller's** question about what to do with Jedi who can't deal with their

dark sides. Maybe, however individual teachers dealt with recalcitrant students, this time with Vader is indeed the first time someone really went that overboard. As for those individual circumstances, perhaps culture and species are relevant to dealing with troublemakers. Also, I don't think we can overlook the reality of consciousness beyond corporeal death among the Jedi. The people I know who are most afraid of death, and who believe in life being sustained at all costs, are those who believe that only this life exists and that when we die, that's the end of everything. Those I know who believe in something after physical death, be it heaven, reincarnation on this plane, or a continuation of consciousness are much more ambivalent about death and when it occurs. Maybe in this universe there are times when nonaccident death is an acceptable accounting, not desirable or easy maybe, but still an option. The checks and balances in a society that *knows* death isn't the last event must be a bit different than ours where the matter is one of faith.

And with that circling back to the topic of my first paragraph, I'll sign off with a plea to all to let me know what you want to see in a SW fan history!

Oh -- a Comics P.S. From a *New York Times* article on the death of Superman (11/22/92): "Who killed him? Some might blame ... sequels whose narratives did not advance as fast as a speeding bullet but lumbered incoherently at a pace that tried and finally exhausted the patience of the MTV generation. Next to Indiana Jones, Luke Skywalker and Captain Kirk, ironic semi-superheroes of a New Age, Superman was a world-class bore."

And has anyone else been following the Prince Valiant storyline about twins, a boy and girl, born to nasty Mordred, but split apart and the boy spirited away to be raised by Druids? Recently, the kids, reunited as friendly adults, discovered their relationship and their terrible sirehood, and the young man -- appalled -- has run back to the Druids who raised him, apparently willing once again to let him be their solstice sacrifice, apparently because he cannot bear being Mordred's son. Sounds awful familiar, eh?





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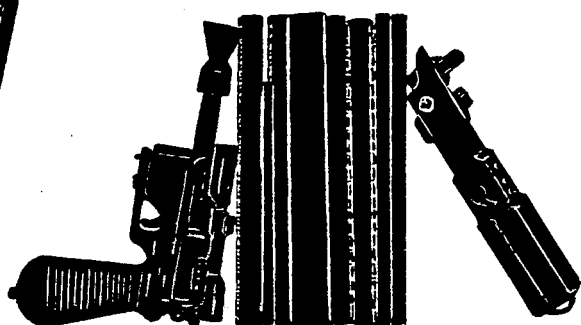
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A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #6. A Golden Age SW zine. "Ladies' Choice" by Pat Nussman and Jacqueline Taero. The Alliance forces have relocated from Yavin to Hoth and things are not going well. And General Rieeken finds that the Empire is not the only thing complicating his life. "The Black Sleep" by Carolyn Golledge. The Blood of Kali forced Indiana Jones' soul to flee its possessed body. When he woke up, he was in a galaxy far, far away. "Alyeska Wild Cards" by Maggie Nowakowska. Trapped in an avalanche shelter with a gang of belligerent miners and forced into a marathon sabacc game with Lando, Han suddenly finds his fortune changing. "Father and Son"

by Z. P. Florian. What if Darth Vader had managed to put Luke into carbonite and spirit him away to train as a Dark Jedi? Much more by Bentrup, Cargill, Florian, Golledge, Hennig, Hines-Stroede, Nussman, Smith, Taero, Wells and Zahn. Color cover by Melanie Guttierrez. Other art by Cargill, Dani, Florian, Guttierrez, Lybarger, Smith, Stasulis, and other favorites. \$28.00 priority mail, \$32.00 overseas airmail. Checks or money orders payable to Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill, Garland, TX 75043.

BELOW THE SURFACE #5. ALL-VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA fanzine. This issue includes: "The Cave" by Smithson; "Vigil" by Chapple; "Other People's Dreams" by Klein; "Sky All Diamonds" by Chapple; "Breakdown" by Hackett; "Tell Me a Story" by Agel; "Command Recriminations" by Chapple; "Beyond Cyborg" by Owers; "Choices" by Karmell; "Son of the Indestructible Man" by Ames; illustrations by Walsh; cover by Chapple. Special portfolio by Chapple. Laser printed, photocopied, 150 pages. GBC bound. \$12.00 by hand; \$15.00 First Class; \$17.50 to Canada; \$21.00 Overseas, Small Parcel Rate. (Overseas agent: Cris Smithson, 17 Osier Close, Ely, Cambs, CB7 4AY. Please contact her regarding overseas shipments.) All remittances must be in US funds. Make all checks payable to Kathryn Agel. \$1.00 from the cost of each issue will be donated to USA-D.O.G., an organization that finds loving homes for retired and discarded racing greyhounds. BELOW THE SURFACE Issues #1, 2, 3 (1991 Fan-Q winner, Best Voyage zine), and 4 (1992 Fan-Q winner, Best Voyage zine) are also available. SASE for detailed flyer and price info.

BRIGHT CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE #1. 1991 Star Award for Best SW Zine. Stories by Golledge, Nussman, Malkin, Dragon, Florian and others. Art by

Lybarger, Martynn, and Florian and some new, very fine artists. 169 pages desktop published to keep costs down, spiral bound to open easily. \$17.00 mail or UPS. SASE for overseas price. For info SASE Ming Wathne, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

BRIGHT CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE #2. Now available. For info, SASE Ming Wathne, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

CHRONICLES OF THE HOUSE OF ALDERAAN #2. A delivery is made to Alderaan's palace "Under Cover of Darkness"; "Princess Leia Gets Married" amid the traditional hoopla; "Ambassador Skywalker" undertakes a mission for the New Republic; and "The Palace Physician" talks torture with Her Royal Highness. There's more! Stories by Susan Deborah Smith, illustrated by Julie Gelbart, Germain MH, and Brandon Tucker. Printed on recycled paper. \$14.00 fc, \$16.00 Canada (US funds only); US\$19.00 overseas. Volume #1 is still available for \$12.00 fc, \$15.00 Canada; \$17.00 overseas. Checks payable to Susan Deborah Smith, Pisces Pig, Ltd., 3538 Mentone Avenue #3, Los Angeles, CA 90034-4820.

88 MILES PER HOUR. "Back to the Future" zine with stories by Mary Jean Holmes and Nora Mayers. \$11.00 by mail, \$9.00 in person. Contact Hill Valley Press, c/o Nora Mayers, 7521 Murray Hill Road, Apartment 638, Columbia, MD 21046.

IN A FARAWAY GALAXY: A LITERARY APPROACH TO A FILM SAGA. This is a 150 page trade paperback book by Doris Robin, Lee Vibber, Gracia Fay Ellwood. Part one includes detailed profiles of the main characters of the SW saga. Part two includes the essay, "Star Wars: The Shape of a Romance"--a must for SW fiction writers. A few copies of this rare 1984 publication are available for \$9.50 + postage, \$2.50 book rate, \$3.50 first class. Checks to ON THE MARK Publications, PO Box 5276, Orange, CA 92613-5276.

KESSEL RUN #4. Yep, it's still available, but not for much longer. SW fiction, articles, poetry and artwork by Agel, Benedict, Brin, Edwards, Laymon & Goldstein, Hennig, Matthews, Hines-Stroede, Molitar, Nussman, Sibley, Taero, Adolf, Zeek, Lorenstein, Varesano, Drake, Dunster, Martynn, Cargill, Faraci, Low, Lybarger, Ludwig, Stasulis, Rosenthal, Wells, etc. Includes "Sword of Darkness, Sword of Light" by Patricia D'Orazio--the Emperor still lives and chaos

reigns; "Old Friends and Acquaintances" by Carol Hines-Stroede--Lando and Vader must work together to save a space station; "Novitiate" by Jeanine Hennig--Luke returns to Tatooine to train and do some heavy soul-searching; and "Life-Line" by Anne Zeek--Han and Leia must rescue Luke from the Imps with the help of Han's old friend Alain, also known as Dracula. \$20.00. Make checks payable to: Michelle Malkin, 1410 Tyson Avenue, 2nd Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19111. KESSEL RUN 1-3 are sold out. Contact Ming Wathne for loaner copies.

MEDIA MONITOR. The adzine of the future is available now. \$5.00/issue or \$20.00/year (\$5.29/issue or \$21.16/year for California residents); \$7.00/issue or \$28.00/year Europe; and \$9.00/issue or \$36.00/year Pacific. U.S. funds only. SASE for more information to Plastic Cow Productions, P. O. Box 3081, Danville, CA 94526.

ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE DAGOBAH #6. Featuring stories by Marti Schuller, Susan Zahn, Z. P. Florian, Barbara Drake, James Casselbury, Ann Goetz, and Paul Roberts. Art by Mark and Melea Fisher, Z. P. Florian, and Paul Roberts. \$18.50 priority mail, \$17.50 book rate. Make checks payable to Melea Fisher, 1902 So. Hwy 121 #1417, Lewisville, TX 75067. Issues #1, #3, #4, #5 still available. Send SASE for flyers.

ON THE MARK. Still available. Back issues of ON THE MARK: the 1982-1987 official fan club newsletter for Mark Hamill and Luke Skywalker fans. Each issue is 6-8 pages of news, photos, articles on Hamill and his career, and on SW, too. Offset printed, only \$1.50 each. Also: color photos of Mark Hamill, Luke Skywalker, Carrie Fisher, Harrison Ford, George Lucas and others, only \$2.00 each. Send SASE for lists to: Lisa Cowan, ON THE MARK, PO Box 5276, Orange, CA 92613-5276.

REMOTE CONTROL. An all-media genzine. Issue #2 now available. Includes fiction by A & E Batterby (Midnight Caller/Quantum Leap), Paulson (The Real Ghostbusters), Chapple (Rat Patrol), Hartwick (Lethal Weapon), Mortimore (Riptide), McCurry (Hogan's Heroes), Holt (War of the Worlds), Sands (Midnight Caller), Boudreau (Wiseguy), Wells (Wild, Wild West), Karmell (Garrison's Gorillas), McDonald (Black Sheep Squadron/Fantasy Island). Illustrations by Molnar and Wells, cartoons by Steyn. Front cover by Myers, back cover by McClure. Photocopied, 200 pages,

GBC-bound. \$21.00 First Class; \$25.00 Canada (US funds only); \$28.00 UK (Overseas agent: Cris Smithson, 17 Osier Close, Ely, Cambs, CB7 4AY. Please contact her regarding overseas shipments.) \$1.00 from the sale of each copy will be donated to the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation. Issue #1 still available at the above prices. 1992 Fan-Q winner and 1991 STAR aWARDs winner for Best Multi-Media Zine!

STRANGE NEW WORLDS. The Marketplace for SF Enthusiasts and Collectors of the Fantastic. Published bi-monthly. Subscription rates: \$9.00 for 6 issues. For more info, SASE to P. O. Box 223, Tallevast, FL 34270-0223.

THE NEXUS CHRONICLES. A collection of VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA-related fiction from the Nexus Cycle by Kathy Agel, chronicling the development of the relationship between Chip Morton and Lynn Murtagh. Available. Limited print run. \$10.00 in person; \$13.00 First Class; \$15.50 Canada (US funds only); \$19.00 UK (Overseas agent: Cris Smithson, 17 Osier Close, Ely, Cambs, CB7 4AY. Please contact her regarding overseas shipments.) \$1.00 from the sale of each copy of Nexus #1 will be donated to the International Fund for Animal Welfare. Kathy Agel, 51 West 2nd Street, Bayonne, NJ 07002-2322.

UP BUBBLE. The VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA letterzine, over thirty pages long, packed with articles, letters and more. Get in on the fun now! Laser printed, photocopied, GBC bound, mailed First Class. \$12.00 US/Canadian, \$16.00 Overseas. (Overseas agent: Cris Smithson, 17 Osier Close, Ely, Cambs, CB7 4AY. Please contact her regarding overseas shipments.) Sample issue \$4.00 US/\$5.00 Overseas. Current issue #9; Issues 1 through 8 are available as back issues at \$3.00 each. Kathy Agel, 9 - 11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

COMING SOON TO A GALAXY NEAR YOU

ALLIANCE AND EMPIRE is a new STAR WARS fanzine now accepting submissions of fiction, poetry, filks, and art. Stories from all timeframes are encour-

aged, with G to R ratings. No slash or gratuitous violence will be accepted. Yeah, I know, I should have done this one a long time ago. New writers welcome! Already accepted: fiction by Florian, Steyn, Golledge, Schuller, Wilcoxon, and Graham. Kathy Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 070023510.

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #7. The Vader Issue! "Designated Hitter" by Carol Hines-Stroede, illoed by Nancy Stasulis. One of the legendary teams of SW fanfic is back together in this new chapter of Carol's Darth Vader/Alan Patronis series. Also stories by Campbell, Cargill, Florian, Ghilan, Golledge, Lybarger, Sapiento, Schuller, Treleven, Wilson, and others. Poetry by Agel, Ghilan, Moore, Taero, and others. Color cover by Nancy Stasulis, color bacover by Dianne Smith. Interior art by Cargill, Churko, Crotty, Florian, Guttierrez, Lybarger, Stasulis, and others. Scheduled for MediaWest 1993. For notification, SASE Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #8. Now open for submissions. Features "Mercy Mission" by Cheree Cargill. It was just a simple run to pick up medical supplies, Leia assured Han. Nothing could possibly go wrong. Why did those sound like famous last words? Seeking high quality fiction, poetry, cartoons and art. SASE for guidelines. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

BOBZINE. MIXED MEDIA zine dedicated to exploring the many characters played by Bob Dowdell. Now accepting submissions--do you have a story from STONEY BURKE that needs a home? How about 240-ROBERT, THE INITIATION, SKIN DEEP or TERROR IN THE SKY? The only requirement is that the story center on the character Bob played in the movie or TV episode. No gratuitous sex and no "/" situations will be accepted. Anticipating publication in May 1993, in time for MediaWest*Con 13. SASE if interested. Kathy Agel, 9 - 11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510

BRIGHT CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE #3. Looking for artists, poems, stories, puzzles, anything in the SW universe. Main characters, peripherals, new ones as long as they stay within the outline of SW. Can be planet history, social setup, etc. Can be G to R, all submissions subject to edit. Send outline or story to Ming Wathne, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

FIELD STUDIES #3. If adventure has a name, it must be Indiana Jones. If adventure zines have a name, it must be FIELD STUDIES! Stories by Cheree Cargill and Laura Virgil, T. S. Weddell, Z. P. Florian and Jeannie Webster already accepted. Still looking for stories, poetry, art and cartoons for this all Indy zine. With the new "Young Indy" series on ABC, the field is wide open! Adult stories are okay (no slash, though). Originality encouraged! If interested, SASE Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

FOR THE REPUBLIC by Nora Mayers. It was not Luke's youth that made General Khala Jhen Rhessa dislike him as much as it was his own fear of the unknown. Rhessa's personal and professional lives were built on fact; he was uncomfortable with anything he didn't understand or couldn't explain...and he found the idea of the Jedi Order as a major source of the Republic's protection a frightening concept. Publication date: October 1992. For further information, send a SASE to Hill Valley Press, c/o Nora Mayers, 7521 Murray Hill Road, Apartment 638, Columbia, MD 21046.

GALACTIC CASTAWAYS. I'm still trying to get this one out! GALACTIC CASTAWAYS is a serious all-fiction LOST IN SPACE fanzine looking for stories with the feel of the early first season--in short, the way Allen should have done the show! I'm looking for serious fiction, humorous stories (no slapstick, please), stories that blend action with characterization. Submissions should use the entire cast, not just Will, Dr. Smith and the Robot! Explorations of relationships between the members of the extended family are also welcome. Anticipated publication date--late spring, 1993. Kathy Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES. Indiana Jones letterzine hoping to debut in January 1993 is now seeking submissions. This is intended to be a simple no-frills letterzine with lots of lively discussion. In addition to the movie trilogy, I hope to see discussion of THE YOUNG INDIANA JONES CHRONICLES and the new series of novels and comic books. All letters, articles, zine reviews or classified ads can be submitted on IBM 5-1/4" disks in ASCII format. Published quarterly. \$2.50 per issue (overseas add 50 cents extra for postage). Make all checks payable to Jeannie Webster, 416 E. 241st St., Woodlawn, Bronx, NY 10470.

THE FARTHEST FRONTIER is a STAR TREK genzine now open for submissions. We're looking for short to medium-long fiction, poetry and folksongs from the original series, the movie universe, and TNG. Action stories as well as relationship pieces are welcome, but no slash will be accepted. Kathy Agel, 51 West 2nd Street, Bayonne, NJ 07002-2322.

ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE DAGOBAH #7. Now accepting submissions of fiction, poetry, filks and art. No slash, please. Send SASE for submission guidelines if new writer or if you have a PC (if material can be sent on a disk, you have my undying gratitude). Deadline sometime in the Spring '93. Melea Fisher, 1902 So. Hwy 121 #1417, Lewisville, TX 75067.

STAR TREK NEXT GEN ZINE, as yet unnamed, is accepting submissions of fiction, poetry, filks and art. No same sex. Send SASE for submission guidelines. Deadline, April '93. Mark Fisher, 1902 So. Hwy 121 #1417, Lewisville, TX 75067.

OTHER WORLDS

CORELLIAN ARCHIVES is looking for copies of ROGUE'S GALLERY #2, DARK LORD (Swedish version) #6, and OLD REPUBLIC READER #2 and #3, good xerox or originals. Contact Ming Wathne, Curator - Corellian Archives, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110. Postage charges will be returned for authentic information on availability.

FANZINE LIBRARY needs donations of out of print zines. Complete sets of SIMON & SIMON INVESTIGATIONS and TIME WINDS have been donated by their editors, but we need more--V, UNCLE, STAR TREK, BEAUTY AND BEAST, and multi-media. For info on how we operate, SASE Ming Wathne, Curator--Corellian Archives, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

NEW T-SHIRT DESIGN now available. Crouching wolf looking right at you, white ink on black shirts. Original art by Cheree Cargill. Sizes M-XXL. \$15.00 (\$16.00 XXL). Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

LUKE & LEIA T-SHIRTS. Double portrait in original art by Cheree Cargill. Black ink on cream, yellow

or pale blue shirts. Available in L, XL and XXL sizes. \$12.50 FC (\$13.50 XXL sizes). Please state first and second color preferences. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill, Garland, TX 75043.

SOUTHERN ENCLAVE T-SHIRTS. The following SE shirts are still available: one X-Large (navy), and two Larges (1 royal blue and 1 navy). Design printed in white. First come, first serve. \$12.00 first class mail. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

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